

WIKI SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC, INC.
Annual Membership Meeting

February 26, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Call

Board Members Present: Peter Meyer [President]
John Sadowski [Vice President]
Diane Shaw [Secretary]
Sara Snyder [Treasurer]
Robert Fernandez
Kevin Payravi
Gerald Shields

Board Member Not Present: Kelly Doyle

Guests: Kate Ruane, WMF Lead Public Policy Specialist (U.S.)
Ziski Putz, WMF Movement Advocacy Community Manager
Laura Pulecio Duarte, WMF Advocacy Communications
Specialist, Communications Team
Kirill Lokshin
Jamie Flood
Bryan Hilderbrand

Total number of attendees: 15

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

1. Members of the Board of Directors introduced themselves to the attendees.
2. Mr. Meyer presented an overview highlighting Wikimedia District of Columbia activities over the past year, including edit-a-thons run by the Institutional Partnerships Manager, Ariel Cetrone. Some of the events were associated with recurring partnerships. Other chapter activities were reviewed, including WikiConference North America, GLAM partnerships, the Wiki Science Competition, multilingual events, and Wikimedia Movement Strategy discussions.
3. Ms. Snyder gave the financial report for the fiscal year (October 1, 2020–September 30, 2021). She addressed the need to ensure the sustainability of funding for the future through grants and other sources.

4. Mr. Sadowski presented a slideshow of the top five Jury's Choice Award winners from the latest U.S. Wiki Science Competition.
5. The Volunteer of the Year Award winners were recognized. They are Jamie Flood of the U.S. National Agricultural Library, a stellar editor and promoter of wiki work; and Bryan Hilderbrand, who supplied crucial technological support for the past year's WikiConference North America.
6. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Kirill Lokshin, who has been active in Wikimedia District of Columbia since its founding in 2011. Mr Lokshin served on the Board of Directors for ten years, including several terms as President, and has been a key person from the beginning in helping to keep the Chapter running on a sound financial and administrative path.
7. Mr. Meyer offered remarks about current issues and future plans for the Chapter, such as:
 - a. Recruiting diverse Board members
 - b. Developing partnerships, particularly with other Wikimedia chapters and affiliates in the United States
 - c. Applying for supplemental grant funding for the Chapter
 - d. Increasing public policy advocacy
8. Ms. Ruane, Wikimedia Foundation Lead Public Policy Specialist (U.S.), gave an overview of the kinds of public policy issues that the Global Advocacy Team is concerned about, including the protection and enhancement of policies that enable Wiki work to thrive. The Team leads engagement with federal government agencies, the United States Congress, and similar groups. She discussed the Journalism Competition and Protection Act currently before Congress, which could affect the sharing of open knowledge through introduction of a link tax or other intellectual property restrictions. The EARN IT Act of 2022 could have put end-to-end encryption at risk and affected Wiki work worldwide. The Team also pays attention to anti-trust acts that might impact Wiki work, the activity of the U.S. Copyright Office in designing technical standards for copyrighted works online, and the Biden Administration's Alliance for the Future of the Internet.
9. Ms. Ruane introduced the two other WMF staff at the meeting: Ms. Putz, who works on programming development and capacity building opportunities for public policy, and Ms. Pulecio Duarte from the Communications Team, who is another public policy specialist helping to empower global campaigns. All three WMF representatives expressed their enthusiastic willingness to be engaged with WMDC on public policy issues. They responded to questions from attendees about anti-harassment issues, the difficulties in becoming involved in state and local policy issues, the need to reform copyright laws related to orphan works, and the likelihood that various policy initiatives might pass or fail depending on the outcome of the midterm elections. They said that the power to change policy depends on having the Wiki community speak out on the issues.

10. The Board thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and encouraged members to stay on for informal chatting and open discussion.
11. The meeting formally adjourned at 3:09 p.m.