

## MINUTES OF THE WLRN

### COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) MEETING

January 19, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** The meeting was called to order by John Labonia in place of CAB Chair Jo Asmundsson at 12:13 PM.

**CAB MEMBERS, WLRN STAFF AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Daisy Gonzalez-Diego, Martin Karp, Marcela Moyano, Michael Ragheb, Barry Schwartz, Kearey O. Wan, Cynthia Weems, John Labonia, Adrienne Kennedy, Michael Jalali, Peter Maerz and Tom Hudson.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW CAB MEMBER**

John Labonia introduces new CAB member Barry Schwartz. Schwartz is Vice Chairman of the WLRN Friends Board and runs a wealth management practice at UBS Financial Services, Inc.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the November 10, 2016. Members present accepted and approved the minutes as published.

**ALAN TOMLINSON TRIBUTE:**

John Labonia shares the station's shock from the unexpected passing of Alan Tomlinson. John introduces a radio tribute produced by Tom Hudson, followed by a 2-minute video produced for broadcast on WLRN-TV.

**RECOGNITION OF WLRN NEWS – NATIONAL EDWARD R. MURROW AWARDS:**

Tom Hudson shares a few of the more prestigious awards that WLRN News has won in the last calendar year. The Edward R. Murrow Awards have handed out recognitions annually for the last 45 years, both in the regional district and national. The awards represent the work of journalism recognized by the Radio Television Digital News Association. Regional contests are entered into first and the winners are entered into the national awards where submissions compete globally. There were more than 4,300 submissions for work that was produced in 2015 for awards that were handed out in 2016. Regionally, WLRN News competed with other news rooms in Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, winning six regional awards, including best overall.

In the regional awards, WLRN News won the following awards:

- Audio Continuing Coverage: The “continuing coverage” of normalized relations between the United States and Cuba. This award recognizes the breadth of coverage for one story over the course of 12 months.
- Audio Feature Reporting: The historical look back at the graffiti problem in South Florida during the 90's.
- Audio News Documentary: Sunshine Economy's “*Falling into the Gap*” investigates what has been called the “donut hole” of Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. There are several hundred thousand people in South Florida that fall into the gap of people who make too much money for Medicaid, but not enough money to qualify for the tax subsidies for the ACA.

All this led to the national contest, where WLRN News competed coast-to-coast with radio newsrooms and in some cases, even network newsrooms, to win three national Edward R. Murrow awards. Two awards were won outright with the third shared. The station is competing in the large market, meaning the top 15 markets from New York to Los Angeles.

The national Murrow awards went to the following reports:

- Audio News Series: The *Migration Maze* series was produced in partnership with the Miami Herald. The series covered the influx of Central American migrants that came through Mexico, Texas and California in 2014. Several thousand undocumented migrants came to South Florida with many of them, unaccompanied minor children. Tim Padgett, WLRN's Latin American Correspondent, along with a Pulitzer-prize winning Miami Herald photographer, went to Honduras for a week and several weeks at home to investigate firsthand how these migrants ended in South Florida. Four radio pieces were created and reviewed to win this award. A clip is played to the CAB board.
- Audio Sports Reporting: *Shark Attack On The Beach! Footvolley's Popularity Taking Off In Florida, the U.S.*, reported by Tim Padgett, describes a sport called Footvolley. This blend of soccer and beach volleyball was invented a half century ago in Brazil and is now becoming popular on the beaches of South Florida. A clip is played to the CAB board.
- Small Online News Organization (Audio): WLRN was also recognized along with fellow public media stations in Tampa and Orlando for best audio of a small news organization website in connection with *Health News Florida*. The definition of a "small news website" has to do with head count, not market size. Despite the fact that Miami, Tampa and Orlando are large media markets, it has to do with resources essentially. This is partnership between the three stations to cover health, health policy and health innovations in the state of Florida. One of the stories that we submitted as part of the application for this award was a broad series looking at HIV in Florida. The Murrow committee really identified that as a significant achievement of collaboration of what can be sometimes competing resources with stations. It won for best website.

Some comments that were made at the award dinner in New York were in reference to WLRN as the smallest radio news operation to win multiple national awards. WAMU in Washington won two awards, WBUR in Boston won two awards and "little old us" won two awards.

John Labonia mentions that Joshua Johnson, once a WLRN Miami Herald staff member, is now the new host of 1A, the replacement show for Diane Rehm.

#### **ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS UPDATE:**

Adrienne Kennedy shares a slide show of the *Streets of Wynwood* premiere event that was held at Pérez Art Museum Miami on Thursday, Nov. 10 @ 7 p.m.

Other original program updates include:

- Film short *Plight of the Plume Birds* received two Suncoast Regional Emmy Awards in the category of Environmental Program.
- WLRN's original film *Treblinka's Last Witness* is on offer internationally via American Public Television Worldwide.
- *Oceans of Pink* is under a submission process for national distribution via American Public Television and is currently under
- *Streets of Wynwood* is under review by American Public Television for national distribution by American Public Television.

Press material was handed out that covered the stories of Alan Tomlinson.

**NEXT CAB MEETING: MARCH 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:52 PM.