D/I Committee Voting Window to Close Soon

The deadline for voting in this year's D/I Committee election is coming up quickly, with the window to cast your ballots closing on Thursday, August 9, 2018.

This year's action is to ratify another term for Victoria St. John of Vermont Public Radio, who just completed her first term this year.

St. John spoke to EsPRSSo about her previous committee stint and her plans for the next three years.

How was your first year on the committee?

For me, it was valuable to get to know the objectives of the PRSS and how the PRSS fits into the rest of the system in terms of its governance and funding. It was especially worth the effort to wrap my head around the politics of the CPB, PRSS, PBS, and NPR - the interrelations and synergies. It was educational and inspiring to come to understand the scope of D/I committee responsibilities and
How the PRSS serves stations.

What was the impetus for running for a second term?

My commitment to Vermont's public radio audience runs deep and the joy of serving them is what's kept me in public radio for so long. Serving on the D/I committee gives me the opportunity to bring that commitment to the public radio audience on a national level. The D/I committee allows me to share my commitment with this community, but also across the nation. It's an honor to help make sure the PRSS provides the 'public service' aspect of public radio I so deeply believe in.

You've been a very active member of the public radio community for many years. Does serving on the committee give you a new perspective on public radio?

D/I members have an impact on public service nationally, benefitting underfunded communities and stations in the public radio system. We help colleagues across the system understand how distribution works and the nuances of costs, like what their interconnection fees don't cover. Our role helps elevate the effectiveness of the national public radio community by ensuring a strong financial future for the PRSS. The D/I committee assists the PRSS in communicating important values, ideas and connecting a business model that works now and in the future for member stations and partners in the commercial satellite community.

How do you feel about the general health of public radio in this current climate?

I feel confident because public radio is made possible by a community of intelligent, readily adaptable professionals who are fearless in the face of rapid change. I count myself among a cohort that is willing to examine the future of public radio strategically - from funding to content distribution - and act on behalf of its future. That's more necessary than ever as technology and habits are quickly evolving.

What would you say to somebody in the industry who was contemplating seeking a committee seat in the future?

Do it! We work in public media to make a difference in people's lives. Embrace the community. The teammates I have worked with during this experience are some of the smartest, most passionate people I have ever met. It is a very satisfying role.

Do you have any goals or plans for your second term?

Radio, TV, video, podcasting, streaming and apps taken together are creating blurred lines between content formats. I'm excited about the partnerships that are possible within the public media community. Observing, connecting, and partnering are key ways this team is making sure the public radio community not only keeps up but leads in this fast-moving climate.

I am in a good place to take what I have learned from the first term and apply it. Having developed many productive relationships, I'm excited about how we are working together to strengthen public media as a whole.
Come See Us at the PRPD Conference

The Public Radio Content Conference, hosted by the Public Radio Program Directors Association (PRPD), is coming up in a few weeks. This year's event will be held August 20-23, 2018, in Austin, Texas. As always, the PRSS will be there representing ContentDepot, interconnected stations and public broadcasting.

Business and account representatives Joe Schifano, Earl Johnson and Renee Southworth are attending the show, and they will also be manning the PRSS booth in the exhibition center. Please stop by and say hello and check out the latest developments with ContentDepot.

If you'd like to schedule a meeting with one of us, please send an email to PRSSBusiness@npr.org. See you in Austin!

The News

MetaPub Adoption Rates Increasing with Shows

The MetaPub train just keeps rolling on.

The PRSS now offers more than 2,000 hours of programming in 67 shows from 17 different producers enhanced with metadata via our MetaPub API, and there are more than 100 stations that are now outfitted with the means necessary to provide text and images with their broadcasts.

Below are the programs currently available in ContentDepot that provide metadata with their audio content. If you have a ContentDepot account, you can also check to see which shows are added in the future. From the home page, click on the 'Tools' header and select 'Program Search'. When you do, you will arrive at the search box. Click the box titled 'MetaPub enabled' and click 'Search' and you will receive the list of MetaPub-enabled programs.
New Morning Edition Clock to Debut August 13

This is a reminder that the new Morning Edition clock will take effect on August 13, 2018, the first format change since 2014.

NPR has made available on its member stations page the new clock template, the feedback verbatims from its various conversations with stakeholders, and the recordings of the webinars held.

For more information about MetaPub, please visit: http://prss.org/metapub
earlier this year to detail the move. You can access this, with your member station log-in, at https://www.nprstations.org/programinfo/morningedition/clockwebinararchives.cfm.

Tips 'n' Tricks

PRSS Offers Variety of Communication Outlets

The PRSS is expanding its communications channels with the system, and we would like to connect with you! Below are the channels we are using to link up with the interconnected community as well as others in the public broadcasting community. If you’re a user of one or more of these sites, please connect with the PRSS so that you stay up to date on news, announcements, alerts and other important information.

ContentDepot messaging - This is the primary and official means we use to communicate system alerts, maintenance sessions, regulatory updates, D/I Committee business, and other important topics. It is strongly recommended that all key staff members, whether in the station or producer communities, are subscribed to ContentDepot messaging. For a guide on the different kinds of messages the PRSS sends, as well as how to set or confirm your preferences, please go to http://prss.org/messaging.

Twitter - We are available at @PRSS_NOC. The PRSS ContentDepot Twitter account is a way for us to share system alerts and upcoming maintenance. It's also a way for us to highlight and/or promote other events and goings-on in public radio. Please 'follow' us to stay up to date on news and features that we share with the system.

LinkedIn - We have created a LinkedIn page under the name "ContentDepot" which we plan to use to connect with stations, producers, vendors and partners and to share information, inspiration and other items relevant to the public radio community. If you are a LinkedIn member, please connect with us!

PRSS.org - We also post system-wide news and announcements on the News section of our PRSS website. You can check the latest headlines at http://prss.org/news.

Of course, we also have our EsPRSSo newsletter, which you're reading right now so hopefully this means you are subscribed. However, if you're reading a passed-along copy, or you know of somebody else who should be subscribed, please do so here: http://pages.et.npr.org/cpc?bu=6402418

Stay tuned for upcoming developments as the PRSS expands into other vehicles as well. For more information about PRSS communications, please contact Erich Shea at eshea@npr.org or 202.513.2620.

What's New in the ContentDepot?

There are several new programs (both recurring and one-time-only) appearing in the ContentDepot this month. Listed below are details on a sampling of new regularly occurring programs that your listeners may enjoy:

Definition of Resilience - A new 30 minute, four episode special from Native Voice One that highlights the dynamic stories of Native American hip-hop artists.

INDIGEFI - A new one-hour, weekly program from Native Voice One that features an eclectic blend of modern Indigenous music.
The Democracy Test from Truth, Politics and Power - A new one hour, six-episode series from American Public Media that will examine the fault lines of American democracy during the presidency of Donald Trump.


Cross Country Checkup - A two-hour, one-time-only LWSF special from PRI featuring Canadian and American guests discussing trade differences on everything from dairy to lumber to steel.

Morning Edition New Clock Practice Show - This is a special one-hour *not for broadcast* version of Morning Edition that follows the new program clock. NPR is making this one-hour file and accompanying promo clips available for practice purposes.

Stay in Touch

We Want to Hear From You!

EsPRSS-O welcomes and encourages your questions, comments, suggestions and ideas.

- Have you or your team developed a particularly unique and/or nifty technique in operating ContentDepot?

- Are you facing any new challenges and want to get the perspective of others who might be in a similar situation?

- Are you seeing any technology or business developments on the horizon that your pubradio colleagues ought to know about?

- Got a notion on your mind that you want to share with the PRSS?

If so, don't hesitate, write in today!

Send any and all correspondence to PRSSCommunications@npr.org along with info on the best way to get in touch with you.

Stay in touch! Send your questions, comments and ideas to PRSSCommunications@npr.org. As always, the PRSS Help Desk is also available 24/7 at 800.971.7677 or email PRSSHelp@npr.org.