

**WTVP Community Broadcasting Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 8, 2013**

Present – Adam Sloan, Steve Tarter, Carole Hill, Linda Zears, Henry Litchfield, Andra Connor, Sally Hanley, Linda Miller, Chet Tomczyk

WTVP /WILL GM Chet Tomczyk reported on the first month of his tenure as manager of public TV stations in both Peoria and Champaign-Urbana.

"I'm burning up the roads between here and Champaign," said Tomczyk who spends several days each week at both stations.

Tomczyk, who's set his retirement for June 2014, is doing double duty as a result of Mark Leonard, WILL's former GM, taking a post with Nebraska public television.

In response to talk of a merger between the two stations, Tomczyk was quoted in Current.org as saying, "It's too early to even speculate on a marriage -- we just started dating." Nevertheless, Tomczyk said work continued on creating a downstate public network, citing the example of exploring the use of master control services in Peoria for other public TV stations in the region.

"We're trying to find ways to use both WTVP and WILL staffs more efficiently in order to do more local content," said Tomczyk, pointing to "new realities" in public television. With reduced government spending on public broadcasting, "staying even is the new getting ahead," he said.

While unsure of what federal funding will be for public TV, Tomczyk noted that state support that amounted to \$5 million eight years ago is "under \$2 million right now."

"More and more, we're dependent on money raised locally," he said.

As an example of how the two Illinois public TV stations he monitors can work together, Tomczyk pointed to PBS Learning Media where the University of Illinois might be able to provide some help in the area of mathematics, he suggested.

The two stations planned a common pledge drive on Nov. 7 with WTVP involved in the promotion of the Chihuly glass exhibit at the Peoria Riverfront Museum.

With "Newshour" now running on weekends, WILL radio is working to create a local insert for the "doughnut hole" in the show, said Tomczyk. "We're trying to find ways to get more news on the air," he said.

Committee chair Adam Sloan asked what the biggest challenge was in coordinating two stations. Tomczyk said, "getting past the corporate culture of the two places." There's a big difference in manpower at the two stations, he said, noting that 46 people comprise the WILL staff while only 17 work at WTVP. "I'm amazed at how much WTVP accomplishes with the small staff it has. The people here are multi-tasking," he said.

The Channel 47 GM also reported that "Boxcar People," a program produced by WTVP on the Mexican workers who labored for the railroads in Galesburg, literally living in boxcars set up by rail companies, was nominated for a regional Emmy.

Linda Miller said that folks were busy on a number of projects: "World of Play" at Glen Oak Park, a Doc Martin "TOOP," the annual Volunteer Recognition event. She also noted that Jim Miller will do an event for the public as well as for Channel 47 members.

Miller provided additional details about how the station was helping to promote the Chihuly display, noting that several events were planned for the Peoria Museum's Giant Screen Theater including a preview of a special on John F. Kennedy.

"Season four of 'Downton Abbey' starts on Jan. 5," said Miller, referring to the popular PBS program. "Despite a lack of zombies, there's a lot of good material coming up," said Miller of upcoming PBS programming.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Tarter