

## **Results of the October 2004 AIR Board VOTE of Approval (Re: Board appointments)**

*By Dolores Brandon, Executive Director, AIR*

I am pleased to announce that the AIR membership overwhelmingly VOTED to APPROVE the Board decision to appoint new Board members Jake Shapiro (PRX) and David Freedman (WWOZ) to their first terms as organization reps, and returning director Sue Schardt to a third term.

I trust you will join us in saying WELCOME aBoard Jake, David, and Sue!

Here's the official count:

94% approve  
4% abstain  
2% disapprove

Several **approvers** sent along comments:

- How can we (AIR) give a special vote of gratitude to our outgoing board members? The work they have done, the commitment of time and creative energy is beyond measure.
- Keep up the good work.
- Great choice of new people! Good work.
- Thanks to the outgoing board members for all your work on behalf of AIR.
- I only know of Mr. Shapiro by the fine reputation that precedes him, AND I'm very excited to see that a rep from WWOZ is up for appointment. I don't know Mr. Freedman, but that station is hands-down my favorite radio station in the country!
- Well done. Sounds good.
- Thanks to all outgoing and current AIR Board members for their work.
- Pity to be losing these formidable persons from the executive committee. Ahh—but life goes on.
- Carry on!
- Great job with the process, the ballot, and the appointments. Thank you!
- I love all of these people.
- Many, many thanks to the outgoing crew. Looking forward to great things from the new additions!
- I'd like to thank the Board members who are stepping down for their service to AIR and wish them the best in future work.
- I'm grateful for everyone's service to the organization!
- Thanks for everyone's hard work!
- Good work on getting these two.
- Thanks to all for past Board service and for willingness to serve in future.
- AIR rocks!
- Long Live AIR!

In a couple of instances those who **disapproved** had questions about the process, asking why the AIR Board did not seek nominations and hold a regular election. Although we thought we'd explained this in the Alert sent to all AIR members with the VOTE request, I responded to the dissenting members as follows:

There were a number of factors that contributed to our going this route this time:

- The AIR by-laws give the Board the right to appoint a certain percentage of the Board and elect the remaining percentage.
- The by-laws also only require AIR to have nine Board members, and currently we have 15! We wanted to reduce that number. With three members impacted by term limits, it gave us the opportunity to NOT replace anyone. However, the by-laws say we have to have three organization reps, so we HAD to deal with the fact that we HAD to ADD.
- We wanted to make sure we got reps that brought real stature and variety to the Board.
- Yes, we could have held an election, but to be honest, we lost track of the fact that we had to have an election this year and found ourselves with little time to do the proper outreach, etc., involved in a real election. (Egg on our face for that!) So, given that the by-laws permit us the appointment option, we chose to go that route.
- In the past, even when we appoint a Board member, in order for that person to stay a second term, we do ask him or her to stand for election.

There will be an ELECTION in 2005. Five current Board member terms will expire. We will issue a call for nominations in the spring!