

# Annual Meeting of the Members

**Virtual Meeting, November 19, 2024, 2:00 to 3:00 pm ET**

## Introduction

The meeting was opened by Peter Laugharn, President & CEO of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and Chair of the Council on Foundations. He welcomed attendees and expressed appreciation for their participation in the meeting. Laugharn outlined the agenda, which included the election of new and re-election of existing board members, the presentation of the Treasurer's Report, and remarks from Council President & CEO Kathleen Enright. Laugharn shared that since the end of 2023, the Council welcomed 125 new members, bringing the total membership to 926 organizations from across the philanthropic sector. He then led his fellow board officers in a vote to approve the meeting minutes from last year's Annual Member Meeting.

**Action:** A motion to approve the minutes from the 2023 Annual Member Meeting was made, seconded, and approved by vote.

Laugharn marked the 75th anniversary of the Council this year, and he offered a brief reflection on the Council's longstanding role in supporting and shaping the philanthropic field, expressing enthusiasm for the future and the continued growth of the community.

He then introduced Jay Williams, President and CEO of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and Vice Chair of the Council's Board.

## Governance Committee Report

Jay Williams, Chair of the Governance Committee, presented the committee's report focusing on the committee's core responsibility: the recruitment of new board members. Williams introduced a new candidate for board membership: Sam Bressi, President and CEO of the Lancaster County Community Foundation. He cited Bressi's long-standing engagement in the Council. He was nominated for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

Additionally, three current board members were presented for renomination for a second three-year term:

- Srikanth Gopal, President and Managing Partner, Humanity United
- Galen Maness, Chief Operating Officer, San Francisco Foundation
- Jay Williams, President and CEO, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Williams stated that the full board approved the nomination slate at its most recent meeting, and this slate was also shared with the membership in advance of the Annual Member Meeting, in accordance with the Council's bylaws and standard procedures.

Following the report, Laugharn initiated a vote on the proposed slate.

**Action:** A motion was made to approve the proposed slate of new and re-elected board members. After no discussion, the slate was unanimously approved.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Jen Ford Reedy, Treasurer of the Council Board and President of the Bush Foundation, reported on the Council's financial progress over the past five years. She noted the successful redesign of the membership dues model in 2020 and the diversification of revenue through fundraising, earned income, and grants. Ford Reedy cited operational improvements, including enhanced financial systems, a return to in-person conferences, and a new investment strategy. She noted that the Council continues to receive clean audits and has seen ongoing financial stability. Ford Reedy expressed gratitude to all of the Council's supporters.

## **State of the Council**

Kathleen Enright, President and CEO of the Council, delivered a State of the Council address. She expressed appreciation for the Council staff and board members and emphasized the essential role of philanthropy in strengthening communities and civil society. Enright then highlighted the Council's efforts to support its nearly 1,000 members through training programs, collaborative initiatives, and advocacy work. She noted the importance of maintaining the independence and integrity of the nonprofit sector and the need for continued unity across diverse philanthropic organizations.

Reflecting on the year, Enright shared insights from the Building Together conference in Chicago, which focused on equipping members to navigate differences constructively. She reiterated the Council's commitment to fostering curiosity, constructive dialogue, and inclusive leadership. Enright also shared

key program highlights, including the launch of the Center for Community Foundations, findings from a new report on building common ground, and ongoing advocacy efforts in Washington and globally. She concluded by calling on members to continue building coalitions that advance equity and belonging.

## **Closing**

Before ending the meeting, Laugharn recognized the two departing Council board members:

- Juan Martinez , – John S. Juan Martinez, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer – John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- Mason Rummel, President and CEO – James Graham Brown Foundation

Laugharn thanked them for their service and then thanked everyone for joining virtually. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm ET.