

**CITIZENS FOR  
INDEPENDENT  
PUBLIC  
BROADCASTING**

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**Executive Director**  
Jerold M. Starr

**Associate Director**  
Karen L. Conner

**Outreach Coordinator**  
Alex Traugott

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Nolan Bowie**  
Harvard University

**Daniel del Solar**  
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**Alvin H. Perlmutter**  
Sunrise Media LLC

**Jerold M. Starr**  
West Virginia University

**Barbara Trent**  
Empowerment Project

George Gerbner  
Temple University  
234 Golf View Road  
Ardmore, PA 19003

November 22, 1999

Dear George:

We are very grateful for your participation in our founding event. We got good coverage from the trade papers. In addition, there were visits from representatives of AP, NPR and APTS.

In the weeks ahead, we will be developing our contact database, web page and training manual. Once in place, we will begin earnest recruitment of organizers and partner organizations. Meanwhile, this event already has generated additional radio interviews and a forthcoming feature in *The American Prospect*.

Finally, as people begin contacting us with various requests, it would be useful for us to know whether you might be willing and able to accept speaking engagements for groups in your area regarding our mission and work and whether you would be available for interviews with the press or broadcast media regarding same.

Associate Director, Karen Conner, Outreach Coordinator, Alex Traugott, and I are very excited about our launch and the voyage ahead. Please let us know about the above and keep in touch with your ideas.

Sincerely,



Jerold M. Starr  
Executive Director  
jmstarr@cais.com

Who's telling  
of this

see  
Bo Starr m  
desktop.

Reply by Nov 30

Sent "Comm Rev to Jerry" 11/10/00 11:30 pm

Executive Director  
**Jerold M. Starr**

October 20, 2000

Associate Director  
**Karen L. Conner**

Outreach Coordinator  
**Alex Traugott**

George Gerbner  
Temple University  
234 Golf View Road  
Ardmore, PA 19003

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Dear George,

I am very pleased to invite you to participate in the conference, "The Communications Revolution and the Public Interest," scheduled for the Blackburn Center Auditorium of Howard University on Saturday, April 28, 2000. Jointly sponsored by CIPB and the Howard University School of Communications, the conference will feature lively discussion of the new technologies and their implications for workers, consumers and citizens.

There are two dimensions to this event. First, I invite you to submit a paper of roughly 10-20 pages. I am making arrangements with a major university press to publish the conference proceedings. As for the conference itself, I envision a series of 4-6 panels of roughly 60-90 minutes each. The panels would feature three or four presenters followed by discussion. Unlike the anthology, the number of presenters and time allotted to each is limited. We are making arrangements with public TV station WHUT for both videotaping and telecasting.

As for the live conference, we feel that the broader the diversity of opinion, the livelier will be the debate and the greater the media exposure. Accordingly, we invite you to suggest leaders from the world of business and government in addition to public interest advocates. For example, we might invite PBS President Pat Mitchell, FCC Chair William Kennard, a representative from AOL/Time Warner, and/or Sen. John McCain.

Obviously, if more of them were to come, we would have fewer spaces for public interest advocates on the program. If not, there would be more space. In either event, however, the volume would be inclusive of all who are interested. The auditorium (which is wired directly to the studio) accommodates only 125 people, so the conference will be by invitation only. Lunch will be served in the Blackburn Center Art Gallery. There will be broad outreach to the press, appropriate government agencies and Congressional and White House staff.

If you wish to participate, please provide me with a working title and one paragraph abstract of your proposed paper and presentation (you can amend it later) so that I can begin to organize the panels. I am setting a deadline of November 30, 2000 for submissions. I am very eager to include you in this important event. However, since invitations do exceed spaces available, the deadline is firm. Please get back to me as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerold Starr". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jerold M. Starr  
Executive Director

# **CIPB**

**CITIZENS FOR INDEPENDENT  
PUBLIC BROADCASTING**

Executive Director  
**Jerold M. Starr**

October 26, 2000

Associate Director  
**Karen L. Conner**

Outreach Coordinator  
**Alex Traugott**

**George Gerbner**  
234 Golf View Road  
Ardmore, PA, 19003

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West Virginia University

**Barbara Trent**  
Empowerment Project

Dear George:

I am calling on the board to advise and consent on some important decisions that presently confront me as Executive Director. It has been six months since our first board meeting and six months from our next one. Between now and then I must resolve some funding and staffing questions and establish clear evidence of the validity of our mission and strategic plan.

### **Future Funding**

While we were given grants of \$200,000 each from the Schumann Foundation and Open Society Institute for this second fiscal year, future funding appears to be problematic. On July 26, in response to a request from Jack Willis, I flew to New York to meet with him and his boss Gara LaMarche. The conversation was cordial, but Gara made it clear that OSI should not be expected to fund CIPB at the same level next year. He did not rule out some funding, but indicated the need to see us develop a broader base of support.

On October 6, Jack, Bill Moyers, CIPB board chair Al Perlmutter and I met at OSI's offices to explore potential future funding. To my surprise, Bill was equivocal about Schumann Foundation support. He shared concerns about the cost of Schumann's major grant programs and revenue shortfalls and suggested the foundation might have a limited future.

Bill also made it known that CIPB's two previous grants had been awarded solely on his personal recommendation. He said his board has never seen our video or materials nor seriously discussed our mission and strategic plan. In fact, he worried that they "didn't get CIPB's mission." Of course, I offered to address the board anytime he felt this would be helpful, but that did not seem to be the primary concern.

As the meeting progressed I found it necessary to explain and justify CIPB's strategic plan to build a structure of chapters nationwide to impact PBS member station programming locally and establish a base for the larger legislative initiative nationally. We believe that our success in influencing PBS national policies will depend on evidence that we have a national movement that is bringing local pressure to bear. When asked, I pointed to some 24 chapters listed by my Associate Director Karen Conner. I was compelled to admit that many were just getting off the ground and only a few were meeting regularly.

At this point I felt it necessary to remind everyone that CIPB has only been funded for 15 months. The first year was spent finding, furnishing and equipping an office, hiring and training a staff, recruiting a board of directors and national advisory committee, working with attorneys, accountants and financial advisors and, finally, creating a complex interactive web site, training manual, educational video, and organizational brochures. As if that were not enough, CIPB took the lead in organizing the Coalition to Defend Educational Broadcasting to stop the religious right takeover of educational licenses.

In short, not only have we been working very long days, but also we have been very productive. Nevertheless, at meeting's end, I found myself agreeing to an evaluation by the April 27 board meeting as to whether we have a viable campaign worthy of continued funding. Jack will attend the board meeting and the scheduled national conference and Bill tentatively has agreed to both as well.

Meanwhile, I agreed to explore additional funding from the Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Revson Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation (poverty program). Bill agreed to write letters in support of applications to MacArthur and Revson and Al Perlmutter will explore possibilities from the Social Venture Network. Also, I will look into the Working Assets Fund and Unitarian Veatch Foundation. In each case, per Jack's suggestion, we will explore near term funding for projects this fiscal year as well as longer term funding to follow.

I have requested the annual reports of all of the above organizations and had a lengthy meeting with fundraising specialist Ken Berez, formerly of Vietnam Veterans of America and other organizations. I do not know if we will be successful. I am feeling much pressure trying to incorporate this activity into the many I already am doing in an office that already is stretched to its limit.

### **Reorganization of the office**

This past summer I toured six cities, using publication of my book, *Air Wars: The Fight to Reclaim Public Broadcasting*, as a premise for conducting organizing meetings of CIPB chapters. I did 20 radio and cable TV interviews and book readings/signings in ten bookstores. Initial chapter meetings were held in Boston, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and, later, Chicago.

After leading a delegation of conflict resolution specialists in South Africa, I returned to a full schedule of classes at West Virginia University. By the time I got back to the CIPB national office in mid-September, the staff were in a mild revolt. There were a few things at issue. First, we were down to two people on a regular basis. I was no longer running things four days a week as before and our summer intern was gone. Second, we had passed through the development phase that drew directly on Karen's and Alex's skills and experiences. Neither of them felt comfortable with the painstaking demands of recruiting national partner organizations and developing local chapters on top of running the national office.

Over the next two weeks, I met separately with both and worked out new employment contracts that specified their duties and reporting procedures. I have attached copies of the new contracts. Alex's job no longer includes Outreach Coordination. He is Office Manager/Webmaster with all the duties those jobs include, especially web site and data base management, financial record keeping, and responding to outside requests.

In addition to promotion, press relations, and special events, Karen's job is to recruit national cultural and public interest organizations to partner with CIPB to recruit individual members to join local chapters. For this effort, we have designed a series of customized letters and tracking devices, utilizing our data base system. She also is organizing a "Ready for PBS" national documentary film competition and promotion. And she will assist the Executive Director with the conference, "The Communications Revolution and the Public Interest," scheduled for Howard University, April 28, 2000.

My job is to provide direction and oversight to all these activities, communicate with the board and national advisory committee, serve as spokesperson for the campaign, plan the conference (and publications) and, now, raise funds.

This leaves chapter development, the critical dimension of our strategic plan, uncovered. Thus far, I have been covering it. I have developed orientation and support materials that guide potential local organizers from the first idea through a series of actions. Follow up means many phone calls and mailings. I was prepared to assume this task. Now, the demands of fundraising will compromise this.

What is needed is someone with the time, talent and energy to actually follow through with each local coordinator to ensure that chapters are meeting, properly structured, have agendas, have support and are moving toward raising public awareness and impacting programming on their PBS member stations.

In short, we need to recruit another staff person to serve as Chapter Development Coordinator. This would be a full-time position, budgeted for about \$30,000 plus about \$4,000 in benefits. The initial contract commitment would be only through July 31, 2001. The candidate most likely would have to already be in the D.C. area. For that salary, he or she would have to be relatively young, but still have movement organizing experience; a tall order, but we only need one person.

Where would the money come from? The largest discretionary items in the budget are \$60,000 for public meetings, \$20,000 for travel and \$15,000 for advertising and promotion. At the New York meeting there were suggestions to take a quarter page ad in the *New York Times* to run a "friendly letter" to Pat Mitchell, contracting with Herb Chao Gunther of the Public Media Center to promote CIPB, and/or making small grants (\$1,000-2,500) to local chapters to underwrite events. What do you think?

Also, there will be expenses associated with plans for the Howard conference. Joint sponsorship with the School of Communications of Howard will keep auditorium and art gallery (reception) rental costs under \$1,000, but videotaping of the whole day by WHUT will run almost \$10,000. Moreover, there will be catering expenses and postproduction on the video to produce a 60-minute document of conference highlights for educational exhibition and PBS and cable television distribution.

In addition, Al Perlmutter and I have been exploring the possibility of staging a Fred Friendly Seminar in the middle of the conference that would be telecast live or on tape. This would be a very expensive production, taking up what is left of the conference budget. I would prefer to make the seminar

conditional on additional funding or cost sharing (with WHUT) and proceed with the recruitment of the Chapter Development Coordinator.

### Staffing

I also must share certain reservations I have about committing to the employment of Karen Conner for a third year. As you will recall, my employment review of January 31, 2000 (after six months of service) was very positive. I stand by my high evaluation of Karen's performance with respect to office building and press relations, taking meetings and other matters. She continues to bring a positive attitude to the workplace and to work long hours.

In that review, however, I indicated "It is too early in the campaign to evaluate Ms. Conner's performance with respect to coalition building and local public broadcasting accountability project support." By her own account, she found herself not well suited to local chapter development, a conclusion that has led to the present proposal. Accordingly, she is concentrating on national promotion. Whether she is up to that remains to be seen. Moreover, our need for that kind of effort should be over within the next six months.

Since future funding will be held to some accounting by the end of April, it seems prudent that Ms. Conner be put on probation over that same period. This will allow us to keep our options open while we assess our fundraising prowess, Ms. Conner's growing capabilities and our changing organizational needs in time to make proper applications for the next fiscal year.

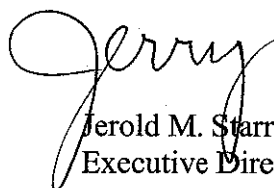
By the annual board meeting, we will be in a better position to assess whether CIPB has become a viable proposition in enough communities to warrant continuing support, what staff are required to sustain a national office and what funds are required to underwrite such staff. If we decide at that point to terminate Ms. Conner's services, she will be given the thirty days notice required by her contract.

After the New York meeting, Jack Willis indicated to me he felt that three years is a more appropriate time frame within which to evaluate the validity of an organizational mission and strategic plan. I completely agree. I had hoped that additional fund raising responsibilities would not be thrust upon me until this time next year so I could concentrate on implementing the original plan. Unfortunately, that does not seem to be the case.

Accordingly, I am asking the board for discretion to use portions of the budget to recruit an additional staff person to serve as Chapter Development Coordinator and to agree to the proposal to put Karen Conner on six-month probation to be reviewed at the annual broad meeting of April 27, 2001. I have shared this letter with Karen and she is in agreement with the plan.

Please get back to me with your best thoughts as soon as possible so that I can proceed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Jerold M. Starr  
Executive Director

TO: Al Perlmutter, CIPB board chair  
FROM: Jerry Starr, CIPB Executive Director  
RE: Plans and budget for coming year  
DATE: July 17, 2001

I am responding to your request to provide you with a proposal for running the CIPB national office in Pittsburgh over the coming year. This plan is based explicitly on the mission, goals, activities and corporate purposes specified in our incorporation papers, corporate bylaws, funded grant applications, membership solicitations and all other communications. Nothing has changed except that I have been able to devise a strategy for extending the life of this project beyond the end of September, which was the required vacancy date for our Washington, D.C. office.

*Relocation of national office to Pittsburgh*

As everyone was well aware, we could not remain in Washington, D.C. As explained in my lengthy memo to the board, prepared at your request, we had several insurmountable problems. One of our two main funders had withdrawn and pending grant applications were proving problematic. It is almost impossible to hire and retain staff capable of executing a plan on short-term temporary contracts, which is all we had been able to afford since January. The landlord was pressing us for another two-year renewal of the lease with a substantial rent hike. There is no office space available in D.C. for less than a two-year lease and there were no sublets available from other organizations. Also, there was a heavy expense to maintaining a Washington, D.C. presence; including a corporate apartment and commuting travel budget for the Executive Director. I checked with our remaining main funder, Jack Willis of OSI. He continued to support my leadership and approved the move without reservation.

As I saw it, my challenge has been to see whether and how long I can manage a new national office in Pittsburgh in order to honor the many commitments already made and to create the opportunity for new funding down the road. I want to do the responsible thing, spend the grant money for its intended purpose and keep our work alive as long as possible. I have every reason to believe the board should and will support this plan. It is simple arithmetic.

In fact, Janine e-mailed me on April 17<sup>th</sup> to state: "Like you, I can think of no important disadvantage CIPB's location in Pittsburgh would have over staying in D.C. If it makes it possible for you to incorporate the work more reasonably into your life, I think that's the answer. And it strikes me that any funder would see it as a practical decision given the financial situation." Whatever caused her to completely reverse her position did not come from the carefully documented reports submitted by my staff and me.



### *Pittsburgh Office Operations*

Of course, like all moves this was a major effort. However I am very pleased with the results. We have comfortable office space with only a one-year lease commitment at a rate \$10,000 less than our old D.C. space. The corporate apartment is shut down. As hoped, the corporate apartment was rented immediately and the D.C. office is rented as of August, sparing us the last two months on the lease. I personally supervised and carried all of the equipment and important files and they survived intact and are in place. Our telephone and computer systems are now operative.

I used a placement service to find the right Office Manager/Administrative Assistant to work with me. Like all of my past staff, she is new to the issue of public broadcasting reform. However, she has all the skills we require. She also has a background in television station management. And she has a solid history of community service. Her references were excellent, some from former colleagues and friends of mine. Her name is Louise Uram. We are pleased to have her.

### *CIPB's Ongoing Program*

The total move, including all technical support, cost a little over \$6,000, which we make back in the first two months of operation. The best news is that with these economies and without additional funding, I have developed a way to continue our work toward our original mission for one more full year. We have offers coming in to play our "Ready for PBS" documentary films on some PBS stations, have signed up 250 new members since April, have chapter activity, and are contributing to several new media stories on the problems with PBS.

Also, our communications consultant, Marian Rivman, and I have honed some of the recommendations from our David Fenton Associates consultation into a plan for three major press events over the coming year that will focus on the themes of corporate concentration of media and the importance of public broadcasting, commercial exploitation of children on PBS kids' shows, and corporate domination of PBS news and public affairs to the exclusion of labor, consumer and environmental advocates. In short, we are still working hard to create a debate in communities across the nation around the need to reform public broadcasting. That is our mandate. That is my charge.

My efforts to obtain new funding were covered in my annual meeting presentation. At this time, CIPB has no grants pending, not even at OSI. I believe I have exhausted all known sources, but perhaps someone might have a suggestion I have not yet considered. This means we have roughly \$120,000-122,000 to make it through the year. In our first year in D.C. this would have lasted four months. We can stretch it to a year for several reasons. We already have the furniture, equipment and resource materials needed. We have slashed the major expenses cited above. I will do with one staff member, who has signed a contract for \$30,000 per year plus health benefits. I am willing to accept only

\$20,000, with another \$10,000 put into retirement benefits. I do not need health benefits. It is important to me that, if we have to close down the office at the end of the year, there be no outstanding corporate obligations. Accordingly, if necessary, I will defer my salary until all bills are paid.

Public broadcasting reform remains my passion. After eight years of work, I now am recognized by the media as one of a handful of authorities on the issue. Even if at some point in the future we are not able to support a national office, I will continue to support the CIPB agenda through my personal and media appearances. The Center for Social Studies Education, which I direct, would be willing to underwrite the expansion and continuous updating of the CIPB web site, making it more interactive so that chapters can directly participate if and when there is no longer a national office to serve as a clearinghouse.

Al, I feel strongly that we have lost much time, energy and good will in the last few months. I have done the best that I can under difficult circumstances and our funders and people around the country feel that is very good, indeed. I know that some of our board do as well. Others have declined to speak with me on the telephone since the board meeting, a posture that does not allow for mutual understanding. However, if necessary, I am prepared to live with that. I am very much looking forward to working with those who wish to work with me.

Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting

To the Members of the CIPB Board:

Aug 16, 2001

From: Al Perlmutter

I'd like to update you on the progress that has been made toward clarification of CIPB's immediate and near-term future. Also, I have attached a statement from Jerry Starr outlining his plans for continuing his efforts to fulfill CIPB's goals as articulated in our original mission statement. I requested the memo from Jerry and have reviewed his statement carefully. I believe he has accurately, effectively and realistically charted a path for CIPB for the next year and I fully endorse his plans.

The move to Pittsburgh was the only rational alternative open to CIPB at this time. To remain in Washington would serve only to rapidly deplete our remaining funds, and it would deprive us of the opportunity to extend CIPB's influence and presence as an important voice calling for diversity in public broadcasting.

Since a board member had earlier raised the question of the funders' position concerning the moving of the CIPB office, I should note that I have spoken with Bill Moyers and Jack Willis, CIPB's principal supporters, and both were supportive of the move to Pittsburgh. They also confirmed their personal support of Jerry's leadership and his continuing efforts as executive director of CIPB.

On another matter that has concerned some board members, I think it important to note that it is standard operating procedure that staff matters are dealt with by the executive director. Boards do not become involved with staff problems unless there is a threat to the organization's assets, as in an employee lawsuit. None of us can determine at a distance what goes on between a director and his staff over the course of time and to pretend otherwise is simply to invite rumor and hearsay. The Pittsburgh office now has one staff member and other functions are being outsourced.

I think that as a board we should acknowledge the vision and dedication that Jerry has brought to CIPB. We are fortunate to have as our executive director one of the few outstanding voices proactively leading the national dialogue on behalf of public broadcasting. If we take the time to review the annual report, with its supplements, prepared by Jerry and his staff, we will see substantial evidence of Jerry's accomplishments. And there has been no substantiated charge of mismanagement. Both the funders and we, as a board, gave Jerry an extremely difficult mandate that included starting a national organization from scratch and our approval of his managing-at-a-distance some weeks during the past year. I believe that, despite these built-in difficulties, Jerry has given CIPB an extraordinary effort and resulting visibility. I urge all of us to put past tensions behind us and to support Jerry in the important work ahead.

From: Janine Jackson <jackson@FAIR.ORG>  
To: "'AHP@aol.com'" <AHP@aol.com>  
Cc: "'nolan\_bowie@harvard.edu'" <nolan\_bowie@harvard.edu>,  
"'nabowie2@mediaone.net'" <nabowie2@mediaone.net>,  
"'ggerbner@nimbus.ocis.temple.edu'" <ggerbner@nimbus.ocis.temple.edu>,  
"'njohnson@inav.net'" <njohnson@inav.net>,  
"'dsolar@well.com'"  
<dsolar@well.com>,  
"'project2@mindspring.com'" <project2@mindspring.com>  
Subject: questions  
Date: Mon, 20 Aug 2001 14:37:47 -0400  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Status:

Dear Al:

Several weeks ago, we were asked to hold off on intra-board discussions until we received a report from Jerry, which presumably would shed some light on the questions and concerns remaining from the last board meeting and its aftermath.

At the board meeting, we raised questions about moving CIPB to Pittsburgh: Could this make it harder to meet the group's goals of assembling a national coalition for an independently funded public broadcasting, serving as a resource for local groups, and drawing media attention to the cause? Would funders continue to support CIPB in its new locale and new staff makeup? Did the move make sense in light of dwindling and uncertain funding?

After the meeting at which these questions were raised, we learned that the board's concerns notwithstanding, CIPB had been effectively moved. This raised questions about the board's role in decision-making. Were our concerns misunderstood, or simply not heeded? If the board has no role in such major decisions, what may we understand our role to be?

These are the questions that remain for me, that will (reasonably enough, I believe) determine my future relationship to the group, and that I hoped would be answered in Jerry's report. May we know when we might expect this?

I hope everyone is well and enjoying the summer.

Best regards,  
Janine



Executive Director

**Jerold M. Starr**

National Advisors

**Robert K. Avery**  
University of Utah

**Ben Bagdikian**  
University of California

**Nolan Bowie**  
Harvard University

**Janette Dates**  
Howard University

**Barbara Ehrenreich**  
Award-winning author

**Henry Geller**  
FCC Counsel (ret.)

**George Gerbner**  
Univ. of Pennsylvania (ret.)

**David Earl Honig**  
Communications Attorney

**William Hoynes**  
Vassar College

**Nicholas Johnson**  
Former FCC Commissioner

**Bill Kovach**  
Editor/Journalist

**Nancy Kranich**  
New York University

**Jerry M. Landay**  
University of Illinois

**Lewis H. Lapham**  
Editor, Harper's Magazine

**Ed McClarty**  
Former Chair, Cal PBC

**Henry Morgenthau III**  
Author, TV/Radio Producer

**Alvin H. Perlmutter**  
President, Sunrise Media

**Alvin H. Poussaint**  
Harvard University

**Willard D. Rowland, Jr.**  
Pres., Colorado Pub. TV

**Danny Schechter**  
Exec. Prod. Globalvision

**Bill Siemering**  
Former NPR Prog. Dir.

**Hedrick Smith**  
Pulitzer Prize author

**John Wicklein**  
Editor/Journalist

**Jack Willis**  
Open Society Institute

George Gerbner  
Temple University  
234 Golf View Road  
Ardmore, PA 19003

Dear George:

Greetings from the CIPB national office! I know you have not heard from us in some time. That is because we have moved. As you can see by the letterhead, we now are located in Pittsburgh. This is my home and where my work to reform public broadcasting began some ten years ago. The move saved us a lot of money and released me from the demanding commute to Washington.

The new office is now fully operational, with Louise Uram as our Office Manager. We have enclosed a copy for you of our major press release, opinion editorial and informational mailing. This is going to a list of about 500, including TV editors, reporters and critics at newspapers in the 100 largest markets, magazines of public opinion, news services and syndicates, and all members of the Public Broadcasting Caucus in the House. As you can see, the subject is commercial exploitation on PBS children's programs and the need for a Public Broadcasting Trust to restore integrity to this important service. We will launch other such initiatives throughout the year.

We are asking all chapters to submit this press release to the entertainment editor and the opinion editorial to the op-ed editor of their daily newspaper(s) right away. Perhaps they will choose to run them. If they do, you might be able to get them to insert contact information for your chapter or news about upcoming events. At the least, we might get exposure to our issues and create the opportunity for you and others in your community to write letters of comment to keep the debate alive.

Speaking of upcoming events, the "Ready for PBS Documentary Tour" is still available as a chapter building activity (see attached list of films). One already has been held and three others are being planned. Last spring, the Pittsburgh chapter drew more than 100 people, raised more than \$500 and recruited several new members. The event also got very positive press coverage. The Chicago chapter has submitted a substantial grant application to the MacArthur Foundation to support its program. All chapter reports of activities will be featured in our September web site update.

We now have 25 chapters launched, most meeting regularly. Moreover, in the past four months we have 250 new members signed up, many of them looking for chapters to join. Please remember that we can provide you with a substantial contact list of interested members in your area if you should wish to call an



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Editor/Journalist

**Jack Willis**

Open Society Institute

organizing meeting. We also have a program for the first meeting, complete with educational video and handouts.

I am pleased to report that two PBS member stations (Denver and Santa Rosa) have arranged to show most of the films in the "Ready for PBS" tour and that we have the same requests from the Deep Dish TV satellite service, Free Speech TV (distribution to scores of cable channels) and some individual cable shows. We intend to expand our promotion of these films to about 70-80 of the smaller PBS member stations throughout the country this fall.

We have an abundance of CIPB training manuals (*How to Make Public Broadcasting Accountable to Your Community*) and would be willing to provide every chapter with as many as 25 each if they think they can distribute them effectively. We also have copies of the video, *Let's Put the Public Back Into Public Broadcasting*, available for local showings at meetings, popular venues and on cable and public TV stations.

In short, we expect a very busy year opposing PBS commercialism and corporate control and promoting more independent and alternative programming on local stations. Knowing how long event planning takes, I urge you to contact us and begin meeting to discuss plans for the fall.

Meanwhile, we have enclosed the press release, quiz, op-ed and press packet for promotion to your local media. This is a strategy that has worked before. We have every confidence that it will work for many of you as well.

Please keep in touch and call or write us with any needs. I hope to be able to call you myself in the near future to offer my encouragement and support.

Sincerely,

Jerold M. Starr  
Executive Director