TMC at the RNC and DNC

Independent news outlets face special challenges covering the presidential elections, and particularly the national party conventions. In addition to the high cost of covering conventions—particularly the cost of renting broadcast space—outlets need previous convention experience to navigate the bureaucracy involved in obtaining press passes and to locate the best stories.

In 2016, the Media Consortium provided support to the entire independent news sector in covering both conventions.

1. We contacted our allies at the Association for Alternative Newsmedia and the Alliance for Community Media to offer to share our outlets’ convention experience with them.
2. We organized two conference calls before the RNC and DNC on which experienced journalists answered questions and gave tips on covering the conventions.
3. We set up a google group and a google drive spreadsheet so that journalists could contact each other at the conventions to pool reporting and share tips.
4. We connected journalists with Belt magazine, based in Cleveland, for logistical support in finding places to stay near the RNC.
5. We asked PhillyCam to serve as broadcast headquarters for independent news journalists at the DNC.

Impact:

1. 24 outlets joined our conference calls and shared their contact information with each other, including 14 TMC members, 9 AAN members, and 1 AMC member.
2. Democracy Now!, LinkTV, FSTV and Real News Network all used the PhilllyCam studios during the DNC
3. Journalists used the google group to share information during the conference, including photos and stories.

Much of the impact of our networking around the DNC and RNC was intangible. These journalists from the Athens News and Grist, the Indy Week and FSTV, now have interacted with each other. They are more likely to reach out to each other now for future partnerships. That’s why supporting a network is so important—without us these connections would never have been made and stories we can’t even anticipate in the future would never have been produced.