
February Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 / NOON / ADG 3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Attendees

Jennifer Ellis, Chelsea Boozer, Wendy Miller, Sarah DeClerk, Sarah Campbell-Miller, Kelly Kissel, Syd Hayman, Bobby Ampezzan

Agenda

1. Conference Committee Update
2. Southeast Journalism Conference
3. Programming Committee Update
4. Financial and Nonprofit Status Update
5. Encyclopedia of Arkansas article update

Discussion

1. Conference Committee Update

- A sponsorship from Rob Robinson would give us a rate and allow us to hold the super session there. Jennifer suggested holding everything at the Marriott.
- Costs would be: \$3,000 for the reception, \$1,000 for the breakfast and \$1,800 for the host bar, which would provide free drinks and then become a cash bar. There will be journalism-theme cocktails.
- We need to solve our screen needs for the Riverview room for the Mark of Excellence Awards presentations.
- We also need to confirm our Skype capabilities in the Marriott.

NEXT STEPS:

- **Determine** action plan for using a screen in the Riverview room
- **Confirm** if and how we can use Skype

2. Southeast Journalism Conference

- N/A

3. Programming Committee Update

- April Event: Covering the Medical Marijuana Beat
 - We are in need of writers/reporters who cover this beat

- Wendy asked board members to bring event format ideas (such as other than a panel). She advised that we not cross the line between medical and recreational use.
- We may or may not have a dispensary be able to participate in our event.
- Bobby suggested looking into the Arkansas Cannabis Industry Association, which Storm Nolan is a part of, and other organization with David Couch's involvement.
- Kelly suggested seeking participation from Jerry Cox and mentions a former reporter who quit her Denver-based job to work for something related to the medical marijuana industry.
- Bobby mentioned a Fayetteville doctor who is dubbed the "pot doctor."

NEXT STEPS:

- **Provide Wendy with event format ideas (All)**

4. Financial Update

- The letter regarding our nonprofit status has been sent to IRS. It is unclear if the IRS has responded.
- The board expressed concern regarding the amount of money spent toward gaining the status vs. the benefit and feedback we have received.
- Jennifer suggested invoicing the attorney to see the services and billing process. We are in need of transparency and a paper trail for all communication relating to this. We also need clarity on what to expect next.
- Kelly said he will go back to files/exchanges from 2013 and assess what we did then and the results of it. Kelly also said we would be responsible for taxes from 2010-2013.
- There is concern over if the process we're currently doing to get the nonprofit status is worth what it's been costing the organization.
- Bobby advised that someone with the IRS could help us with the matter.
- Sarah CM forwarded an engagement letter for the entire board to review.
- Jennifer said the chapter could have debit card--if we get one, we should establish some rules for its use--or get our own Paypal account that is linked to our checking account number.
- The board needs to talk to Sonny A. regarding changes to how we handle contest finances (getting our own Paypal account so that he doesn't have to use his personal one).
- The board votes to move \$5,000 from the Morgan Stanley account and to our Regions account.
- The board votes on budgeting \$1,800 for this year's contest.
- Bobby informed the board that the check for Harding University for the journalism conference there has not been cashed yet.
- An Arkansas Business sponsorship is covering our conference totes. Speakers will get a free shirt or mug for their participation.
- The board voted on spending \$2,005.26 on conference swag items.

NEXT STEPS:

- **Reimburse** Chelsea for money she spent on conference swag (Bobby)
- **Send** a letter to the lawyer regarding our IRS nonprofit status (Bobby)
- **Create** a Paypal account just for Arkansas SPJ (Officers)

5. Encyclopedia of Arkansas article update

- Syd informed the board that CALS has received our entry and submitted photos. It is still going through the editing process on their end. It must go through editing, copy editing and fact-checking.

NEXT STEPS:

- **Inform** board of the next steps in the EoA entry process (Syd)

6. FOIA Task Force Update

- N/A

Announcements & Comments

- Chelsea informed the board that a #MoreThanABabe hashtag will begin on twitter tomorrow in response to The Buzz's Babe Bracket. The hashtag will feature local anchors speaking out against the bracket and objectification.
- The board discussed that a local press organization has asked if our chapter is doing anything in response to the Babe Bracket this year. Some board members discuss issuing a statement in opposition; however, it is expressed that some female broadcasters have not spoken out against the bracket themselves and/or are OK with being in it due to it helping their causes and platforms. Concern is expressed that by issuing a statement, we would be excluding the female journalists who do not take issue with the bracket's existence. The board discussed pursuing various broadcast perspectives on this further before taking any kind of stance.

Next Meeting Agenda

- Conference Committee Update
- Programming Committee Update
- Financial and Nonprofit Status Update
- FOIA Task Force