



May Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 / NOON / ADG 3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Attendees

Jennifer Ellis, Chelsea Boozer, Wendy Miller, Sarah DeClerk, Syd Hayman, Sonny Rhodes

Agenda

1. Programming Committee Update
2. Financial Update
3. Nonprofit Status Update
4. FOIA Task Force Update
5. Scholarship Status Update
6. Contest Committee
7. Call for Board Applicants
8. EIJ18
9. New Business

Discussion

1. Programming Committee:

- May: Instagram Photo Contest (Polly & Jennifer-Ethics/Professional Development/Student Outreach)
 - This will be a photo contest and tips on shooting and captioning.
 - 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 30, on the 5th floor Lee Room at CALS Main Library, 100 Rock St. We have to leave the room by about 7:45 p.m.
 - The categories of food, city life, people and nature.
 - Winners could receive SPJ T-shirts since we still have those and a \$10 cash prize. Chelsea suggested a Blue Sail gift card; Jennifer advised that a cash prize could take less effort on our end.
- June: Annual Chapter Meeting/Board Election
 - June 27 at 6 p.m. (location be determined)
 - Jennifer said we need to decide how big of an event we want to make the annual meeting. Sarah said Blue Canoe has a warehouse now with a bar that we could use. Jennifer said beer drinkers from our past events have said they didn't prefer Blue Canoe. Chelsea suggested Fassler's Hall patio; Jennifer inquired about the possibility of using Core.
- Ready, Aim, Fire: Journalists and Guns (Professional Development)

- This will be a chance to learn about reporting on guns and will include an opportunity to participate in a gun-range shooting.
- Chelsea says the Little Rock Police Department does a class on this topic for citizens; we could ask them to do a partial version of this since their classes tend to be all-day.

NEXT STEPS:

- **Create** a flyer and Facebook event (Jennifer)
- **Ask** the LRPD about presenting at our gun-range event
- **Determine** location for annual meeting

2. Financial Update

- (Bobby absent)

3. Nonprofit Status Update

- We have yet to determine if the documents the lawyer has provided to us are documents we provided to him or documents he provided to us himself. Chelsea said we should still pursue an answer to that, and Chelsea offers to take the next steps to regain IRS status. We may need to wait until a new board is elected to pursue this so that we have the same treasurer or get a new treasurer familiar with the task.

NEXT STEPS:

- **Continue** pursuing nonprofit status

4. FOIA Task Force Update

- (Rob absent)

5. Scholarship Update

- Sonny Rhodes notified the winners and the one student who did not receive the scholarship. A press release and mugshots are needed for our website about the winners.
- Sonny is also searching for a name for the non-Dean Duncan scholarship we have. He suggested looking through the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette archives for the name of the scholarship.
- Jennifer said we need documents from past officers scanned into Google Drive so that future board members have access.
- Sonny said we almost always used to incorporate some sort of story or speaker in relation to the scholarship award(s). Jennifer suggested reaching back out to Alyse Eady; Syd said Alyse recently announced she is having a baby this year.
- Sonny said that the chapter has had awards named after various individuals.
 - It has been confirmed these awards include the following: Jerol H. Garrison Scholarship, Winthrop Rockefeller Freedom of Information Scholarship, Dean Duncan Scholarship, J.N. Heiskell Scholarship and K.A. Engel Scholarship.

- Chelsea suggested an event/accompanying award in honor of William Woodruff, the founder of the Arkansas Gazette.
- Jennifer suggested an award named after a sports writer who recently passed away. Chelsea reminded to consider if and how we'd be able to continue that kind of award in future years.

NEXT STEPS:

- **Write, edit and post press release** on this year's scholarship winners

6. Contest Committee

- The 2018 Diamond Awards contest is live, and emails have been sent to notify people to enter. A Facebook event promoting the contest is also live. The deadline to apply is July 9, 2018, and student journalists may enter.

NEXT STEPS:

- **Submit** entries to the contest (All)
- **Invite** others to submit entries and share the Facebook event for the contest with friends and colleagues (All)

7. Call for Board Applicants

- Kelly Kissel is not running for a board seat this year.
- A local magazine staffer has expressed interest in applying for a board seat.
- Bios to be in the running as a candidate are due May 11. Jennifer needs the bios by then so that we can have a list of candidates posted by Wednesday, May 23. A list of candidates must be live at least 30 days before the election takes place.
- Elections will take place during the annual meeting June 27.
- We all should encourage broadcast colleagues to apply.
- SPJ past president Lynn Walsh reached out to Jennifer to ask if she'd be interested in running for an at-large director seat. If someone from the chapter is interested in this, the deadline is approach. Nationals will still accept nominations from the floor.
- Chelsea said we should do our part to recruit more fresh energy for the SPJ board.
- The board has at least two positions that will need to be filled.

NEXT STEPS:

- **Recruit** applicants for a board seat (All)
- **Submit** bios to Jennifer by May 11 (All)

7. EIJ18

- After the June annual meeting, we need to determine who all wants to go to the conference and who would be the delegate. We can vote on how to allocate funds for members' conference participation during our July board meeting (July 11).
- Last year, we put \$1,800 toward conference costs for board members.
- Board members can also consider the various grants, internships, fellowships and scholarships that SPJ national offers. These deadlines are fast approaching (early June!).

Announcements & Comments

- The regional directors have met to establish new guidelines for chapter finances. That working document was shared with Arkansas Pro Chapter board members during this meeting to garner feedback. Regional directors are working on the document with the goal to share finalized rules with nationals. The new finance rules are to ensure transparency and credibility.
 - Chelsea said chapter turnover happens too quickly to properly pass down rules and guidance for new members to utilize. If we gathered all of our rules together into a handbook and give every member a handbook of sorts, Chelsea said, we could have more consistent practices.
 - Jennifer noted that other chapters don't have as much money as our chapter.
 - Wendy said it is beneficial to have strict guidelines about money.
 - Jennifer said some aspects of the proposed rules aren't as necessary if a local board votes to spend money in a certain way. Chelsea noted that there have been instances where board members purchased something on behalf of a board event but do not give the board officers proper notification.

Next Meeting Agenda

- Programming Committee Update
- Annual chapter meeting
- Financial Update
- FOIA Task Force Update
- Nonprofit Status Update
- Contest Committee
- EIJ18 updates
- New Business