

MINUTES
SPJ Georgia Pro Board Meeting
August 16, 2017

MEETING: 8 p.m. Held by Conference Call

PRESENT: Ellen Eldridge, Dan Whisenhunt, Lou Phelps, Jennifer Matthews, Haisten Willis, Julius Suber. Also in attendance was Sierra Hubbard and Bobby Rodrigo.

ABSENT: Mark Thomason.

TREASURER REPORT: Presented by Dan Whisenhunt. Balance reviewed with Board. Online banking has now been set up with Chapter bank, Bank of Ozarks.

AGENDA: Motion made by Lou Phelps to amend the Agenda to include approval of the July minutes and a Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Eldridge. Vote unanimous.

JULY MINUTES: Were approved as written.

New Business

- Changes to Local Chapter Bylaws: Discussion about amending Georgia Pro Chapter Bylaws. Board agreed to discuss any submitted Bylaw changes at September meeting. Members just be notified 60 days in advance of Annual Meeting in December. Eldridge proposed a change to combine the role of President-Elect and Treasurer, regarding Executive Officers responsibilities. Phelps spoke against the change. Current Bylaws state that the President-Elect is responsible for Membership and Communications, which are both important, and a lot of work. If this or other changes are recommended by majority of the Board, they will be sent via email for membership information, and highlighted on website.
- Changes to National Bylaws: Board discussed proposed National organization Bylaw changes. Sierra Hubbard is the elected representative to vote at Anaheim on behalf of the Chapter. On a motion by Phelps, seconded by Willis, the board voted to oppose the Bylaw changes that would reduce the size of the national board of SPJ, and change the status of the Regional Directors.
- Election of National Officers: Eldridge reviewed where Board members can find information on the election of officers for National, which will take place in September by an online vote.
- A Social Media report was provided by Bobby Rodrigo, including FACEBOOK metrics and progress in his first month in chairing this effort. FB page views are up 167%. We are still dealing in small, real numbers, but we also have a very finite audience, he stated. He also pointed out that people have posting outside the optimum schedule. He also

recommended that Wordpress posts be scheduled, and that we post to Facebook on specific days and times of the week to test results.

- Nominating Committee Report: Jay Suber was late joining meeting; Report given by member Lou Phelps. (ATTACHED.) The Nominating Committee is meeting weekly, holding a telephone meeting. Focus has been on studying Chapter Bylaws to insure compliance with all requirements. Suggestions about new officers and board members have been received. More are welcomed. Suber will write a story for the Chapter Website and Newsletter to go to all members.
- UPCOMING EVENTS: Freelance Committee holding an event Sept. 9 in Woodstock. Also, an Oct 25 event at WSB. Both are highlighted on the website.
- Annual Meeting and Holiday Party. The Nominating Committee proposed that the Annual Meeting be held one hour before the start of a December Holiday Party. Eldridge suggested going back to Taco Mac for holiday party, and agreed to work on a date to be discussed at September meeting.
- Student Chapter Report: We don't have a student volunteer at this time for the Board. Ellen is talking to Bill Phelps about a journalism career advice fair this fall to increase involvement with Georgia journalism students.
- Member spotlight assignments:
 - Lou Phelps for September (due the 1st)
 - Haisten to write or find writer for October

Old Business: Eldridge reported that the Lunch n Learn in August was very successful: two of the six who attended joined the Chapter, and it was a reward for long-time members.

Sept. 20 was chosen as tentative date for September in-person Board meeting, to be held at CNN, Atlanta.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Submitted by: Lou Phelps, Secretary

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

August 2017

To: Board of Directors, Georgia Pro Chapter

From: Jay Suber, Chairman; Lou Phelps, Member. *Presented by Lou Phelps in Suber's absence (out of town.)*

The Nominating Committee meets weekly, and has reviewed the Chapter's Bylaws to insure that our Chapter comply with all requirements, including those set by the Region and National Board.

We are recommending a Board of Directors of nine total members, including four Executive Officers.

Any proposed changes to the Bylaws can be voted on at the December 2017 Annual Election by the members, and would impact the elections in December 2018.

The following are highlighted portions of the Georgia Pro Chapter Bylaws that impact the election process and the work of the Nominating Committee, including the Board's responsibility in insuring that elections of officers and board members are held which in compliance with SPJ National requirements:

I. The Nominating Committee shall propose the slate to be elected at a December Chapter Members Meeting. (This is not an action of the Board of Directors.)

II. The membership must be notified 30 days in advance of the proposed Slate of Officers and new Board Members, including their qualifications for office. It is the Board's responsibility to get this information to the members. Our Chapter Bylaws state "by any electronic means possible."

III. ANY member can then propose any OTHER candidate as an Officer or a Board Member, 20 days in advance of the membership election date. It is the Board's responsibility to get this information to members.

IV. The members must be notified 10 days in advance of any new candidates that have been nominated from the membership.

V. Any proposed changes to the Chapter's Bylaws can be proposed by our Board of Directors, but membership must be notified 60-days in advance of the December election date. (Therefore, by October. We recommend voting on any Bylaw changes at our September Board meeting.)

VI. We recommend setting the date for the December meeting as soon as possible, and suggest that it be held one-hour in advance of a joint holiday party with the Atlanta Press Club, in an adjoining room.

VII. The Bylaws state that the Board can decide whether the vote is AT A MEETING, or purely by electronic means, similar to how the National elections are being handled, by email. The Nominating Committee recommends VOTING ELECTRONICALLY over a stated time period.

VIII. All Chapter members PAID 30 days in advance of the election will be eligible to vote. The Nominating Committee is continuing to review the paid membership at SPJ.org. cont....

IX. Positions to be nominated:

OFFICERS:

1. President: One Year 2018
2. President-Elect: One Year 2018 Oversight of Membership and Communications
3. Treasurer Two Years 2018-2019 Term. (Haisten has expressed interest.)
4. Secretary Not up for election in 2018. Lou Phelps to complete 2017-2018 Term

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

5. Jay Suber Not up for re-election: Continuing his 2017-2018 two-year term.
6. Mark Thomason Not up for re-election: Continuing his 2017-2018 two-year term.
7. Ellen Eldridge Ex Officio Member for one year for 2018; former President
8. Student Member Required by Chapter Bylaws. Two-year term, 2018-2019.
9. Open 2018-2019

Board Members Terms Ending:

Jennifer Matthews Not up for re-election: Served 2016-2017 term