

Society of Professional Journalists/Georgia Chapter
June 22, 2017 Board Meeting
Woodstock, GA

MINUTES

Meeting called to Order at 10:13 a.m.

PRESENT: Ellen Eldridge, President; Dan Whisenhunt, President-Elect/Treasurer; Lou Phelps, Secretary; Jay Suber, Haisten Willis and Sierra Hubbard, student volunteer. A quorum of the Board was confirmed.

ABSENT: Mark Thomason, Jennifer Matthews, Rebekah Fuchko

MAY MINUTES were APPROVED without alternation; moved by Eldridge, seconded by Whisehunt. Vote was Unanimous. Minutes were prepared by Eldridge due to Phelps being ill in May.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dan Whisenhunt reported that the Checking Account Balance is \$3,446.78, with (\$3,457.78 in the bank. He also reported that he has not re-visited the budget since the temporary annual budget was adopted at the April meeting. In addition, 2016 taxes were filed. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by Unanimous vote.

Eldridge made a motion to add \$100 to budget for a post office box, but it was the consensus of the Board to hold off on a post office box until a new President is elected by the membership in December.

Whisenhunt reported that Mark Thomason has been directed by his attorney not to comment on the issue regarding the drone that was lent by Region 3 to him. He has been sued by the Region 3 President. The Georgia Pro Chapter did not sign any documents to take responsibility for the drone, and is not involved in any litigation or financial issues regarding the drone, in the opinion of Eldridge and Whisenhunt. No Board action was taken regarding the matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 10:30 Jay Suber moved that the Board go into Executive Session, Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The vote was Unanimous. At 10:45 a.m., Lou Phelps made a motion to end the Executive Session, seconded by Eldridge. The vote was Unanimous.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Eldridge reported that Annual Reports from the Chapter, due to National, was filed on time.

She also reported that Allison Redmond has been helping with website and other Chapter work.

Eldridge made a motion to remove Roderic Graham from the Board due to lack of payment of his dues, Seconded by Haisten. Vote was Unanimous

Eldridge made a motion to name Jay Suber to Chair the Nominating Committee, with Lou Phelps will also serve on the Committee. Seconded by Whisenhunt. Vote was Unanimous. It was reviewed that there are seven board members currently, and the number of Board positions will not be increased next year. Set to serve the second year of their two-year term in 2018 is Huber, Phelps, Haisten and Thomason. The Nominating Committee will present its proposed slate of Officers by October, for Board

review. The slate will be sent to members in November, with the vote to be held in December. The method of voting has not yet been determined (by mail, by email, etc.)

Eldridge reported that the Chapter had been granted a waiver by National to not have to send a delegate to the National Convention. However, Sierra is going to be attending to cover the event, as a Student Chapter Member of 'the news team,' and will also serve as the Chapter's Delegate. The Board will review the national agenda in advance of the meeting, to direct Sierra on the Chapter's position on important issues. A motion was made to help her cover travel expenses by giving her \$200.00. Vote was Unanimous.

Haisten Willis said that he would like to be considered as the Delegate for the 2018 meeting, to be held in Baltimore.

Eldridge repeated her request that Board members work on holding small networking meetings with groups of members.

STUDENT COMMITTEE: Redmon reported that The Student Chapters Network is holding a Region 3 meeting this weekend in Miami, and she will be "attending" via SKYPE. She is working on a presentation of why students should join SPJ Student Chapters, to be used at other colleges in the State.

Sierra reported that she is hearing very positive feedback from students she talks with about the emails that the Chapter they are receiving. She also stated that the KSU Chapter is struggling; there is no faculty advisor at present.

FREELANCE COMMITTEE: Haisten Willis reported that his committee is meeting regularly. Upcoming events include a June 27 lunch at Café Intermezzo in Dunwoody for members to drop in and network. And, a 'Lunch and Learn' event will be held on Monday, Aug. 7 at the AJC, which will be donating brunch. The event will feature nationally-known Georgia author Charles Bethea, who will speak on 'Pitching' work. The event will be limited to six members of the Chapter. The goal is a quarterly Lunch and Learn event for members only. The board previously approved a \$200 speaker fee for Bethea. He is a regular contributor to the New Yorker.

At future Lunch and Learn events, there will be a Tiered payment cost system – a different price for Chapter members versus non-members.

APC Press Club Mixer was attended by Haisten and Sierra in June.

The Chapter was represented at the 'Inspire Black Men' event recently, sponsored for \$500.00. Jennifer represented the Board.

MEMBERSHIP: Lou Phelps reported that there are 47 paid members. The National Circulation Coordinator has committed to run a report of all SPJ members from Georgia who are not Chapter members. Phelps also reported on a proposal she sent to Region 3 President Michael Koretsky suggesting that Chapter Dues be automatically included for new and renewing members of SPJ, and those electing not to belong to their local Chapter could "opt out." Koretsky stated that he would bring the idea to the National Board.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Committee will meet once a month, prior to the regular board meeting each month. The Committee will also bring a proposal to the full Board on the tasks of the President and the President-Elect, to better divide the workload of the Chapter.

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion to adjourn at 11:55 a.m. by Suber, seconded by Phelps. Vote was Unanimous.