

SPJ Georgia Board of Directors Meeting

September 1, 2015

Reporter Newspaper Board Room, 7 p.m.

Present: Sharon Dunten, Ellen Eldridge, Marsha Walton, Devika Rao, Dan Whisenhunt, Curt Yeomans, Neha Negandhi, Mary Silver

Neha Negandhi, new board member joins us. She is a freelance writer. Sharon thanks her for already getting involved, doing committee work

Sharon sez:

Election nominations begin in September, Neha is the last just to be appointed

Plaques for former board members' service: Two are leaving, and there are four other founding members. Could do it affordably. Ellen has a template—could do it just for cost of paper—six people in all

- She proposes a member of the year or volunteer of the year—she esp. wants to recognize – *Haisten Willis*
- Estimated cost \$150. Alternate could be framed certificates, cheaper
- Devika could ask her company, they make such things

Nomination Committee – Haisten Willis chairperson; recommend names or encourage individuals to apply for board position; social media and email blast to go out about board member openings. There will be 4 -5 openings depending upon how many individuals who want to run. Please recommend people to him. Voting in January.

Financial Report – Dan Whisenhunt

Budget passed unanimously

Fiscal year May 1-May 1

Annual report due in May

National Grants—split evenly between *Operation Freelance 2* and *Covering Police Shootings Stories* \$375 each

Kenny scholarship fund, separate account, funded by his gift and student Collegiate Pro dues

Peterson Award, Gift, separate account, replenished through awards application fees

Discussed merging the two into regular account, will ask the givers if that's OK—keep in main account and manage through budget. Dan will consult Lanie Peterson and Rick Kenny

Administration & New Membership Report – Sharon Dunten asks Mary Silver

Committee Reports

Membership Report – Sharon Dunten found a bunch of ppl who are national members who live in Georgia—I must write them and recruit them to SPJ Georgia

Look at SPeachJnews

Sdunten@spjGeorgia@gmail is the right gmail for sharing google docs with Sharon

Programming Report – Ellen Eldridge

10 tix sold for Operation Freelance but 5 of those are board members, and the moderator Katja—we talked about board members not having to pay

Ellen goes over the agenda for that—including the pitch letter critique, which editors will speak of

Marketing? Need to hurry and do some marketing—talked about how, divided tasks, report re it is in the gdocs.

& Marsha Walton

- Operation: Freelance Part 2
- Police Shootings Forum—Mary will moderate
- Social gatherings planned for this fall—planning a Christmas/Eid/Etc party for all members, will get appetizers

Social Media Report – Lindsay Gladu—will take a break said Sharon—her schedule has changed, Jason will take care of for a while, Sharon is recruiting students to help—Devika sez there is a free version of HootSuite (Tweetdeck is awful, all agree)

Ellen went to KSU and recruited for while speaking at a photojournalism class—she may have results—Sharon has already gotten an email

Collegiate Pro Report – Sharon Dunten

- Kenney Scholarship
- PayPal account
- Deadline for students to join FREE—report in folder

First Amendment/FOIA/Ethics Report – Sharon Dunten Meeting tomorrow 7pm Hudson Grill Brookhaven

Diversity Report

- **LinkedIn Group Page** – Devika Rao—she things LinkedIn and Twitter are the best places—good to invite ppl to the LinkedIn diversity group, which is open, please do. She wants to see improved social media presence for SPJ, more of our own content, strategy. Could do social media training as a professional development thing 2016, pls invite at least 20 people. She hopes to get 300 members
- **Diversity Resource List** – Curt Yeomans, 31 pages, for Georgia reporters doing story on certain group, gives a list of contacts, who you can call. Georgia Council on Economic Development lists all consular offices, for example. Community orgs, religious groups. Will be on SPJ Georgia website as a service.
- **Diversity Program** Immigration policy? Before the SEC Primary 2016.

Sharon: Larry Peterson Memorial Award for Investigative Journalism Report—Sharon reports 8 submissions! Some are broadcast. It's Nov. 14 at Savannah Morning News Building. Devika will moderate. Next year people can apply in early, like other awards, but still presented in November in Savannah. She has 2 panelists already

Haiti News Project Report—working on another letter to our counterparts in Port Au Prince. Knight Grant, Casey Grant? Adina is translating, keeps in touch. Sharon will talk to State, group who brought them in re what to do with them

New SPJGeorgia.com website and SpeechJNews.wordpress.com site—every member should write something for it, sez Sharon. Feature members

SPJ National Convention in Orlando, FL – Tweeting and FB

Looking forward to 2016

- Last board meeting of the 2015 & Christmas Party
- 2016 Calendar – placing events and activities on 2016 calendar & all chapter member event
- Setting goals – Giving 2016 board of directors marketing and membership direction

New Business