

SPJ Georgia Board Minutes December 9, 2015

Mary Silver, Secretary

Held at Devika Rao's AirBnb

Present: Ellen Eldridge, Neha Negandi, Devika Rao, Mary Silver, Dan Whisenhunt, Curt Yeomans

Discussed changes to bylaws. Yeomans crafted detailed revisions, researched other chapters, addressed issues, anticipated future issues. He has sent a separate document.

We want to focus on advocacy, write it into bylaws.

Fiscal Year

Must conform to national SPJ report due date.

Standing Committees

Should keep essential ones, keep a manageable number

President Ellen Eldridge proposes five:

1. Diversity
2. FOIA/Ethics
3. Programming/Membership
4. International Journalism (Includes Haiti project)
5. Collegiate Pro—board member from a college has a one—year term, can vote.

All agree

Board size: Seven.

Past president in good standing will have a vote

Table the question of term limits until a future meeting. Whisenhunt says why have term limits when interested volunteers may not be that easy to find, given the group is so new

Bylaws passed.

Two voting officers sign off on checks. Silver has signature on file for account.

Rao and Yeomans are planning a program on reporting on immigration. It will be about what people need to know. Counteract sensational, yellow, ill-informed stuff.

Discussed immigration panel for February, at length. Rao may be able to recruit a great sponsor/host

Whisenhunt will present a budget

Eldridge: Mark Woolsey will chair freelance committee

Silver will ask Jay Suber if he would chair FOIA/Ethics committee

Would like to do freelance awards, for:

1. Best feature—print, digital, broadcast
2. Best use of data
3. Best immigration story
4. Diversity
5. Best ethnic reporting, print, digital, broadcasting
6. LGBT, refugee, voter ID, Gerrymandering (this does not seem like one category. There was a fountain of ideas)

Haiti Project Meeting December 15, Adina Solomon has reported on it via email.

Eldridge found people to run the Facebook page, sent the 2016 calendar.

Found an author who would do a program in an author series for freelancers.

Next year, won't be meeting at Reporter Offices. We await an announcement.

