

SPJ Georgia Board Meeting Agenda
Saturday, Feb. 10, 12-1 p.m., at Alon's Bakery & Market
1394 N. Highland Ave. NE, Atlanta Ga. 30306

Present: Haisten Willis, Lou Phelps, Jay Suber, Larry Johnson, David Armstrong (by phone).

Absent: Ellen Eldridge, Mark Woolsey, Danielle Douez, Toni Stauffer.

Also Attending: Sharon Dunten, Asst. Director, Region 3

Old Business: January 2018 Minutes of Board of Directors meeting approved without amendment.

New Business

- **Treasurer's Report:** In the absence of Danielle Douez, Haisten Willis gave an oral report on most recent bank balances and expenditures. Douez and Haisten Willis have also discussed setting up an account with LastPass (www.LastPass.com) as a way to centralize and store all of the usernames and passwords for SPJ Georgia's various online accounts.

- **Freelance Committee:** The freelance committee's photography workshop was held Jan. 18 at Indigo Yoga. They had 16 RSVP's and 16 attendees, reported Willis. Kimeko McCoy live Tweeted the event via @SPJGeorgia.

The committee met and held a freelancer lunch at Cafe Pharr in Vinings on Saturday, Jan. 27. There were 10 attendees.

Committee is actively planning the 2018 freelance job fair, scheduled for May. 5, by contacting editors who may potentially participate and looking at potential sites. Primary target is AJC headquarters.

The next freelancer lunch will be held Saturday, Feb. 17, 12 p.m. at Cafe Pharr in Vinings.

The next freelance committee meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. at Alon's Bakery.

Social Committee: The committee is working to set up future meeting dates. Willis has asked McCoy to serve as chair.

Diversity Committee: Larry Johnson will chair this committee and plan for an event, potentially another edition of 2017's Media and the Muslim Community to be held in September or October ahead of the 2018 elections, though he reported that it might be best to do that topic in 2019, and have a different topic in 2018 – Immigration.

Bylaws Committee: Jay Suber will chair and work with one or two others to review and update existing Bylaws. The only Bylaw change that has been proposed to date is by Lou Phelps, clarifying that the Student Member of the Board of Directors is for a one-year term.

Region 3 2018 Conference: Sharon Dunten updated the Board on the March 24 conference set to held in Charleston, SC. Both Willis and Phelps will serve on panels. The event is a media networking event with a number of speakers talking about freelancing. Information on the conference, which is FREE, is on the Chapter's website, and the Region 3 website.

On a motion by Phelps, seconded by Suber, it was voted to cover all travel costs – such as mileage - of President Willis to attend. Dunten has arranged hotel rooms for Willis and Phelps, by Region 3.

Press Release/Board Statement Policy: Lou Phelps presented information learned from National on how Chapter handle the process of making a public statement on an event affecting journalists or the journalism industry. National referred her to the President of the New Mexico Chapter, who was very helpful. A vote on the policy was deferred to the March meeting because there was no wifi connection at the board's meeting location to open the document Phelps had prepared. New Mexico terms it a 'Guideline,' a process that attempts to do a quick survey of all Board members on a proposed position. Any member of the Board, or a member of the Chapter is invited to draft a proposed statement or position they would like to see SPJ Georgia take. That draft goes to the President for review and editing. They then send out to Board with a very short and specific deadline for comment. IF the majority do NOT support the position of the statement, the Chapter DOES NOT take the position. The final decision is up to the President to decide on the consensus of views of those Board members responding.

The Board then talked about each of the top priority ideas of the Board members, who had been asked to submit them to Willis back in December. The board will continue to discuss implementing those ideas, and any budget implications as the 2018-2019 budget is developed.

Ideas presented were as follows:

Haisten Willis: Willis aims to centralize and organizer's the chapter's affairs, especially in the digital space. Also aims to streamline process of creating and disseminating chapter press releases.

Mark Woolsey: A campaign to increase membership and an event where the chapter invites prospective members, with refreshments included.

Lou Phelps: Teaming with SPJ Florida for the Green Eyeshade Awards as a way to increase engagement and chapter revenue. Also, seeking out potential corporate sponsors or partners.

David Armstrong: Armstrong would like to focus on connecting the chapter with potential student members. An idea discussed with the board is partnering with existing job fairs, such as those hosted by Cox.

Toni Stauffer: Would like to have SPJ Georgia set up a table at college job fairs. Chapter members could take turns manning the tables at different events.

Danielle Douez: Idea to plan a Wikipedia edit-athon with a journalism connection, potentially in concert with Atlanta's tech community. This would also serve as a networking event.

The meeting was Adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: By Lou Phelps, Secretary