

SPJ Georgia August Board Meeting Agenda

Via conference call, Thursday, Aug. 9, 8-9 p.m.

Present: Ellen Eldridge, David Armstrong, Toni Stauffer (serving as secretary), Haisten Willis, Larry Johnson, Mitchell Northam.

Absent: Danielle Douez, Jay Suber, Kimeko McCoy

Freelance Committee: Job fair to be held Saturday, Aug. 18. Tickets sold at \$20 each on Eventbrite.com. Need ideas to sell tickets. Info is on the SPJ Georgia website. Contact Prof. Farooq Kperogi (Larry to forward e-mail to Haisten for contact info) at Kennesaw State, and Prof. Doug Barthlow, internship director at Georgia State. David to handle promoting at KSU.

Personal Trainer for members: Mark Woolsey idea. \$125 for reserving space and \$150 for trainer. Haisten to ask about cancellation fee for studio and kill fee for instructor. Vote pushed to September meeting. Event to be held Saturday, October 13th. David concerned that event doesn't coincide with SPJ's mission and our time would be better invested elsewhere. Ellen agrees with David. Haisten will talk to Freelance Committee.

Treasurer Report: Danielle not on call. Haisten says balance just over \$3,700. No recent transactions.

Wikipedia edit-a-thon: Held July 20. 30 people in attendance. Really great event with guests. SPJ Region 3 intern Isaiah Singleton wrote recap on website. Haisten says big thanks to Danielle for organizing.

Diversity Committee: Larry Johnson update: Received confirmation for the AJC space. First meeting held Thursday, three weeks ago. Very productive meeting. Came up with basic theme and divided tasks. Bad news: person who took minutes disappeared for 2-1/2 weeks without distributing minutes. Event to be held Thursday, October 25, 6:30 PM, panel to start at 7 PM.

Kevin Riley from AJC will be there either as a panelist or moderator. Ellen to talk to Bill Nigut about participating. Larry wants Kevin to moderate and have Bill on the panel. People want Bill there, but he would possibly be a better panelist than moderator. Ellen said there was discussion that Riley would have better input for panel. No decision has been made yet.

Edward Mitchell from CAIR is going to try to get Aisha Yaqoob or Sheikh Rahman on the panel. They are candidates for the fall. David has a problem with candidates being on a panel a week before an election.

Event theme will be – working title - 'Covering the Midterm Elections and the American Muslim Vote.' Rationale is that both candidates have a great deal of insight into the way the media handles the American-Muslims and the American political process.

This is one of Aisha's areas of expertise. David asks how is she an expert. Larry said because of her advocacy work. David expressed concern giving a platform to candidates because of SPJ regulations. Larry said they can check. He will talk to Samiyah. Someone said two candidates on the forum are too many, that it may make it look like a candidate forum. Larry doesn't think it will be an issue, but he will bring it up to the committee. Larry wants Aisha if he must choose.

Nominations Committee: Of 9 people currently on board 5 have terms ending. Haisten may ask Jay to be the chair because he did it last year. It doesn't have to be a board member, Ellen said. Terms ending for: Ellen (immediate past president), Mitchell (vice president, filling unexpired term), Kimeko (secretary, filling unexpired term), Larry (at large, filling unexpired term), Jay

Meeting date change: October meeting will be moved to Saturday, Oct. 13, 3-4 p.m. at Northside Atlanta Public Library, 3295 Northside Parkway, Atlanta, Ga. 30327. Vote passes unanimously.

Bylaws Change Proposed by Haisten: Discussed with Jay. Term for student board member is two years, but Haisten would like for it to be changed to one year, pending board approval and membership approval during fall elections. Issue is students graduating during the term, unless a first-semester freshman or sophomore can be recruited. David thinks one year is too short, because they need more time to become acclimated. David has a possible candidate from KSU. Last suggestion: 1-year term with opportunity to extend another year.

Adjourned at: 9:05 PM