

SPJ October Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, Oct. 13, 3-4 p.m. at Northside Atlanta Public Library
3295 Northside Parkway, Atlanta, Ga. 30327

Present: Haisten Willis, Mitchell Northam, Ellen Eldridge, Larry Johnson, David Armstrong and chapter member Carol Gantt. Absent: Danielle Douez, Toni Stauffer and Jay Suber. Kimeko McCoy resigned from the board in September due to moving out of state.

Old Business

September minutes approved 5-0.

New Business

EIJ Conference Report: Willis informs the board we now have 72 members, three short of being considered a large chapter by SPJ's standards. SPJ Georgia was a finalist for small chapter of the year, but did not win.

Following the conference, Willis is now a member of the national FOIA committee. The national board is in the process of shrinking from 23 to nine members.

SPJ Georgia member Robin Sherman ran for the national board, but did not win.

Treasurer Report: No report due to Douez's absence.

Freelance Committee: Willis reports that sign-ups for the yoga event scheduled for Nov. 10 have been slow, and encourages board members to help promote. There are 30 spots available and the event is free for members, \$20 for non-members. The next freelancer luncheon is set for Oct. 16.

Diversity Committee: Johnson reports that the finishing touches are being put on "Midterms and the American Muslim Voter," set for Oct. 25 at the AJC. Kevin Riley will serve as moderator, and it's possible that Greg Bluestein will join as a panlists. Board members are encouraged to help promote the event on social media and to reach out to students at Kennesaw State and Georgia State. There are 47 RSVPs as of the meeting.

Nominations Committee: Eldridge is seeking nominations for president, vice president, secretary and two at-large spots.

Holiday party: Willis has reached out to AABJ and AAJA about potentially co-hosting a holiday party at Lindbergh Station Taco Maco Dec. 8.

Other: The board discussed the possibility of creating a \$500 or \$1,000 scholarship in honor of Dr. Carolyn Carlson, former SPJ Atlanta president, SPJ national president and Kennesaw State University professor. May solicit donations for the scholarship as a tax write-off, and potentially create an essay contest for students to enter. Possible date of first award is December 2019.

Adjourn

2019 board:

President: Sean Powers

VP: Carol Gantt

Secretary: KC Wildmoon

Treasurer: Danielle Douez

Immediate Past President: Haisten Willis

At Large: David Armstrong

At Large: Brenda Goodman

At Large: Darius Goodman (FIRST MAN OUT)

At Large: Stell Simonton