

SPJ Georgia
July 2019 Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m. at East Atlanta Library

Present: David Armstrong, Haisten Willis, Brenda Goodman, Charlotte Norsworthy, Stell Simonton, KC Wildmoon

Meeting called to order by Haisten

June minutes approved by acclaim

Treasurer's report: The balance on our account is \$4590.91 as of 7/12/2019. We had a deposit of \$587.50 on 7/2/19 for quarterly chapter dues from national. We had a withdrawal of \$194.42 for job fair expenses on 7/3/19.

Committee Reports:

Freelance Committee: Committee chair Stell Simonton talked about potential event in next six months: presentation about pitching. The next freelance committee meeting will be Tuesday, Aug. 13, 7:30 p.m. at Alon's Bakery in Dunwoody (4505 Ashford Dunwoody Rd.)

Advocacy Committee: Since our last meeting, SPJ Georgia has officially formed an Advocacy Committee, with Brenda Goodman as chair and KC Wildmoon as a second member. When needed, this committee will create statements advocating on behalf of journalists and journalism in Georgia. Statements will be crafted by the committee, sent to the board for approval, and disseminated to our website and to media outlets in that order. Brenda has google alert set up; discussion of case going to Georgia supreme court about lawsuit trying to open legislature's records. KC & Brenda will dig in and get ready. David pointed out a case raising conflict of interest issues with AG representing state agencies in open records cases (they have open records group that works for city, county, but not state).

Old Business:

IRE Event: Board will discuss potential training event in conjunction with IRE. From Pam Dorsett: "Unfortunately, I didn't hear from our contact person with event management at GSU yesterday. She's not in on Fridays; I do have a call in and someone may/may not call me back. I've submitted requested information to GSU, but our event has not yet been approved by the event planning manager, whomever that is. We aren't official until we receive a contract. I don't have final figures but my guestimate is \$600 for space from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Friday, October 18. I don't know about additional charges, if any, for equipment and podium. Although Madison (our contact) estimated the capacity of the combo rooms at 42, I believe it will be fewer than that because we don't want tables set up behind the walls of the second (back) room. Only this morning did I request information about coffee and water service availability and costs, so no info on that yet. It would be helpful for the board to address these questions at the meeting: 1. What do we charge professional attendees? 2. What do we charge students? 3. Is there a maximum number of students we can accommodate financially? 4. What do we do if, for some unforeseen reason, GSU doesn't approve our event? 5. I believe David talked with Patti DiVincenzo of IRE in person about the training. What will the focus of our training session be?"

6. What are the board's ideas about publicizing the event to maximize attendance? 7. Does the board have a budget in mind for the event? Regarding the budget, we'll apply for a \$500 (max) grant from SPJ national. The deadline is August 15.”

Costs: IRE has grant to pay fee, travel, accommodations; then \$50 per (\$25 for students). Discussion of cost. How much to charge. Brenda moves to set \$1000 for budget for subsidizing attendance. Haisten seconds. Pam and Brenda will discuss and present details at next meeting.

Excellence in Journalism Convention Delegates: SPJ Georgia is required to send two voting delegates to the EIJ Convention, which will be Sept. 5-7 in San Antonio, Texas. Haisten is going. Stell & Brenda checking. Vote on cost defray next month.

Open Discussion:

Brenda suggests raising money to create fellowships to newsrooms to hire journalists to do big project, like environment. David: look at ways to make it long term, ongoing. Local journalism is the new black. Charlotte: partnering with orgs like Community Newspapers, other state & regional chapters.

David suggests a fund for investigative journalism

Brenda will do a little looking around to report next month

David suggests an event with Dorothy Butler Gilliam connected with her upcoming book, have event when she does book tour. Many options for partnering.

Charlotte suggests funding journalism books for student members; compile resource list

Next month agenda, chair meeting: Brenda

Adjourn adjourned by acclaim

Next meeting August 17 10a via Zoom