

August 15, 2020
SPJ Georgia Board Meeting

Present: Charlotte Norsworthy, Ashlyn Webb, Stell Simonton, Lars Lonnroth, Mark Woolsey, Pam Dorsett, Jennifer Parks, Curt Yeomans, Jatika Patterson

August Agenda approved

July Minutes approved

Treasurers Report

Pam: balance at previous meeting 3324.80, since then 2 expenses for zoom account, new balance 3294.82

Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee: Charlotte: Monitoring a few items, being tagged on twitter, mostly about governor's response to covid related coverage.

Freelance Committee: Mark: Had meeting planned for 9/9, but that conflicted with one of the Fall panels. New meeting set for 9/8. Will discuss potential future events, such as virtual job fair, reinvigorating the committee, debriefing the first Fall series event.

Pam: Introduces Jatika Patterson, committee member who will be revitalizing the freelance newsletter

Stell: the September 2 event. Panelists are on board; Charlotte sent some publicity out, more coming.

Stell, who is moderating, will meet with panelists ahead of time. Charlotte will handle technical aspects of the event. Request for headshots and twitter handles of participants for publicity.

Student Affairs Committee: Charlotte: classes back in session, looking forward to the student rights event, Lars big help on panelists. looking at some kind of assistance for students in the future, perhaps supporting newsrooms in some way, like buying advertising or donating. Would like to do something in October, especially getting to election, as it will be many student's first presidential election.

Ashlyn: Perhaps some tips for students covering COVID, recommendations for covering safely

Bylaws Committee: All done. Brand new by-laws on the books. Very few votes from membership, but unanimous in favor. Full formal process complete, and bylaws committee formally disbanded.

Old Business

Preparing Training Program for Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council:

Charlotte and Ashlyn met with director of training center, who has green lighted a 1 1/2 to 2 hour training for officers on how to handle press appropriately, especially during times of civil unrest. After that meeting, Charlotte and Ashlyn wrote up a course outline, sent it to Georgia First Amendment Foundation and Georgia First Amendment Clinic for feedback. Both sent back very detailed feedback. Have sent the outline to POST curriculum coordinators, and it's now going through their process via the attorney general's office.

The training center director agrees that this is a very needed program. Charlotte and Ashlyn also found considerable information that journalists may not know, so some of what goes into this course will be repurposed for journalists. Examples: Law enforcement needs a subpoena, not a search warrant, to look at journalists' recording devices; disobeying a crowd control order is reaching the law, even for a journalists; and trespassing on private property is trespassing, whether done by a protest group or a journalist covering that protest.

Multiple kudos all around for the work done on this project so far and coming up.

The content of this course will be owned by SPJGeorgia, which will produce what's needed. Some aspects may be actually created by partners based on SPJGa's scripts and outlines. And when it's all done, there will be a PR strategy.

Short discussion of pitching a story about this project to CJR or especially the Quill, but that will come later.

New Business

SPJ Annual Conference: Conference will be all virtual. and because of that, at significantly lower prices. Charlotte has already registered to meet deadline for delegate. But as many attendees as want can attend.

Costs are \$25 for students; \$45 for pro. Motion to provide up to \$400 for board members, other members, or students to attend. Seconded and passed unanimously. Must be current on dues to be eligible.

Use reimbursement form to request reimbursement. Charlotte will send link around and put it on website.

Fall series:

September 2 @ 7:30 p.m. Freelancer Event

September 9 @ 7:30 p.m. Student Rights Event

September 16 @ 7:30 p.m. Elections Event

September 23 @ 7:30 p.m. COVID Event w/APC

Upcoming in October: Partnership with NABJ, AAJA, NAHJ on event covering communities disproportionately affected by COVID.

Also, Pam's partner has agreed to discuss his experience with having COVID and take questions.

Next meeting: September 19, 10 a.m.

Meeting adjourned