

## SPJ Georgia Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2021

Board members present: Ashlyn Webb, Stell Simonton, Jack Zibluk, Jennifer Parks, Rahul Bali, Pam Dorsett, Nicolle Sartain, Mark Woolsey, Curt Yeomans

SPJ member present: Jatika Patterson

The April agenda was approved.

March minutes were corrected and approved.

### Treasury Report

SPJ Georgia received \$202.08 in membership fees (renewals and monthly payments). We paid 14.99 for Zoom services. Two \$100.00 checks to student chapters are still outstanding. Our bank balance is \$4708.24 — or \$4508.24 minus the outstanding checks.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Freelance Committee

The committee met on March 13 to make final preparations for the April 13 event.

#### Events Committee

##### Covering Extremist Groups

April 13 panel of reporters: We did not have a third panelist for this event. However, the event provided good information and Michale Koretsky attended and had a positive response.

April 27 panel of experts: We have three panelists lined up, Cas Mudd of UGA, Susan Corke of the Southern Poverty Law Center and Amy Iandiorio of the Anti-Defamation League. Nicolle will work on promoting the event. She asked for bios and photos of the panelists. Stell will get that from Susan Corke.

Ashlyn will contact the panelists with the Zoom link and list of questions. Mark is the Amy Iandiorio contact.

May 11 Henry Schuster presentation

Pam said he will speak for 20 minutes. We'll have his presentation followed by an extended Q&A. Pam will send him the questions covered in the first two events so he will not repeat that information.

Advocacy Committee

The Georgia Public Safety Training Video went live April 15! SPJ national will be getting word out through its communication team. The Atlanta Press Club has shared our press release. Nicolle reported a good response at CNN. Voice of America and some outlets are interested in covering.

Student Affairs Committee

Ashlyn will be speaking this week with a GSU contact about getting the GSU chapter back up and running. Rahul will contact Doug Barthlow and the GSU Signal faculty advisor about this. Ashlyn and Raul will loop all three in.

### **Old Business**

We discussed our two upcoming events and the training program for Georgia Law Enforcement during the committee reports

Mentor-Mentee Program

Ashlyn is talking with UGA. KSU is also interested.

SPJ GA Webpage on Job Openings

Ashlyn raised the question of how to keep our list of job openings current. What if positions on the list are filled and no one lets us know? We decided to ask for an expiration date on the Google form. Nicolle said we could automate the form so that it would require minimal upkeep. We would only have to remove outdated positions. Nicolle, Raul and Jack will help on this project.

### **New Business**

### May 6 event with Georgia First Amendment Foundation

Ashlyn reported the First Amendment Clinic would like to spearhead a panel event about the training with our participation. Some attorneys who are 1st Amendment experts will be panelists. Ashlyn said the training should be seen as not just for police but also for journalists. The online event is May 6 at noon.

### Reimbursement to Charlotte Norsworthy

The board approved a \$50 reimbursement for a chocolate basket gift to GPSTC

### Funding to boost social media advertising on Facebook

Nicolle said we can pay to boost certain posts on FB about our events. Pam said the board can approve a certain amount for advertising for the year. A motion was made to approve up to \$150 for the next month and then consider future advertising. Although members appeared to be in agreement it's unclear whether the board took an official vote. Members discussed how advertising could help push SPJ membership. Pam will track new member information to see which events are bringing in members. Ashlyn said publicity about the training video will likely push membership.

Nicolle will send out a special email to event registrants informing them about SPJ and how to join.

### Green Eyeshade Awards

We were not needed to judge Green Eyeshade Awards. They had enough judges.

### New initiatives

Rahul is giving a speech to Morgan County Rotary in Madison. He's switched the topic to media literacy. He will record the event via cellphone for his own use and will let us know the questions he gets. This can help us in creating media literacy initiatives. Jack said it's possible to develop a package of information for media literacy effort.

When to resume in-person SPJ Georgia events.

Ashlyn posed this question. The board's general response was to wait until autumn.

Advocacy around newsrooms resuming in-person operations.

Rahul raised the question of whether SPJ Georgia should address this. Mark suggested a panel event on the issues for journalists, It could also address any long-term changes the pandemic has created about remote work. Possible panelists could be journalists, a labor lawyer, a CDC expert, etc. A midsummer date was suggested.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be May 15 at 10 a.m.