

## SPJ Georgia Board Meeting Minutes Saturday, Feb, 26, 2022

Board members present: Nicolle Sartain, president; Michelle Watson, vice president; Teylor Jo Parks, treasurer; Stell Simonton, secretary; Ashlyn Webb, past president; and members Jatika Patterson, Jack Zibluk, Jennifer Parks, Mark Woolsey and Rahul Bali.

The February agenda was approved. January minutes were approved.

### **Treasury Report**

Nicolle is still holding our bank balance in the form of a check for \$5,810.71 from SunTrust. She is filling out some forms Renascent requires and expects the new account to be open in about two weeks.

### **Freelance**

The committee met Feb. 16. Jatika said meetings will be the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30. The committee is discussing ideas for hybrid events. Jatika and Mark will talk with Events Committee about the details of resuming any in-person events.

### **Advocacy**

Nicolle did not hold a meeting since there are no members yet. The main initiative is an April event with Sources of Color. Nicolle and Michelle met with Florida SPJ officers to collaborate on planning this event. Jack, Jatika and Ashlynn will participate on advocacy efforts.

### **Student Affairs**

Adam Sennott, chair of the SPJ National Membership Committee, contacted Nicolle to say he'd been in touch with UGA. She will talk to his contacts there to see when UGA might want a speaker.

Rahul spoke to a class at Kennesaw and found great interest among students Ashlynn spoke to an Athens student group.

Jack suggested we develop a specific presentation for students. Rahul suggested we simply start a statewide SPJ chapter for students and just make ourselves available to speak to classes. Nicole will talk to Adam about the merits of a state student chapter vs. individual campus chapters.

Nicolle asked each board member to email her with names of two contacts on campuses for setting up speaking engagement there. She'll put a list together.

### **Membership**

The committee met last week and will meet at 10 a.m. the second Saturday each month. Mark and Jennifer have a potential new committee member and a pitch letter ready to send to students. Mark spoke at AABJ. Nicolle will see if AABJ would like to be part of the Sources of Color event.

Mark and Jennifer are considering going to newsrooms to talk about SPJ and recruit. Jennifer is reaching out to the Albany Herald. Nicolle will look into Savannah TV station visits.

#### Events

The committee may meet the second Saturdays of each month at 9 a.m. but that could change.

#### **Old business**

##### Update on mugs

The Membership Committee will handle merchandise. We will wait to order mugs until the bank account is open. Michelle will check on how soon a mug order can be fulfilled.

##### Georgia Public Safety Training Center video

Nicolle spoke with GPSTC and found that our video and materials are getting good use.

##### Freelance workshop/master class resource for students

Nicolle will get with Lars to see what direction to go on this.

##### Future board meeting dates

The board will meet on Monday evening at 8 p.m. on:

March 26, April 23, May 21, June 25, July 23, Aug 20, Sept 24, , Oct 22, Nov 19, Dec 17

#### **New Business**

The board approved assisting with in the Green Eyeshades Award.

##### Multimedia Journalist Safety Event

This will be March 12.

##### News startups in the state

Newsy and Axios are among the startups. We could have a representative from them talk at a panel event. The Events Committee can look into this.

The meeting was adjourned.

**The next meeting will be Saturday, March 26, at 9 a.m.**