

# SPJ Georgia Board Meeting Minutes

## Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022

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

Chapter member present: Laura J. Downey

Rebecca Aguilar, president of SPJ National, joined 45 minutes into the meeting.

The January agenda was approved.

December minutes were approved.

### **Treasury Report**

Nicolle gave the report. Because we have switched to a new treasurer, we have to open a new bank account. Nicolle has consulted with CPA Glenn Aldridge in Duluth and is holding our bank balance in the form of a check for \$5,810.71 from SunTrust. The CPA recommends Renasant Bank, which will not require a fee for the account.

Jatika moved to open a new account, Jennifer seconded and the board approved Nicolle to open the account.

### **Committee Reports**

Nicolle would like to formalize committee leadership and set meeting dates so that chapter members can be kept informed. Mark will check the bylaws to make sure SPJ chapter members — not just board members — can chair a committee.

#### **Freelance Committee**

Jatika and Mark agreed to co-chair. Jack will join. A meeting date will be set and the board will be informed of the date.

#### **Advocacy Committee**

In the absence of a volunteer to lead the committee, Nicolle will chair.

#### **Student Affairs Committee**

Jack will chair. Lars will be active.

#### **Membership Committee**

Mark and Jennifer will co-chair. Jatika will join.

#### **Events**

Nicolle will chair. Michelle is an active member. Teylor Jo will join. Rahul can help when needed.

## **Old Business**

### Merchandise

Rahul volunteered his card to buy the previously approved mugs since SPJ Georgia doesn't have a working bank account at this moment. The chapter will reimburse him.

### Sources of Color

Nicolle has talked to SPJ Florida about hosting a joint Sources of Color event. This effort could expand to full Region 3 event. We could also consider a recurring event open to SPJ National.

### Historically Black Colleges and Universities outreach

Nicolle said our effort to establish chapters in HBCUs ties into National's college outreach. We'll contribute to National's listing of college students involved in SPJ. The Membership Committee will work on this. Jatika, an HBCU graduate, will be involved.

### Georgia Public Safety Training Center follow-up

Charlotte and Ashlynn will turn over their materials on this completed project and Nicolle will reach out to GPSTC to see how the training is being used.

### Freelance workshop/master class resource

Lars' project for a student freelancer seminar at UGA was tabled because of COVID. The Events Committee will decide where to host such an event. Ideas for panelists and moderators are welcome.

## **New Business**

### Board meeting dates

The third Saturday is not a good date for two board members. Nicolle will send out a Doodle poll to find out the best future dates.

### Multimedia journalist safety

Rebecca Aguilar, SPJ National president, joined the meeting and talked about MMJ safety. Many MMJs have contacted her with their concerns after a Virginia journalist was hit by a car. Mark suggested the chapter hold a panel discussion on MMJ safety.

Rebecca gave credit to our board for its diversity, both in race and age. She announced Nicolle has been appointed to the SPJ National Nominations Committee. She would also like to offer a training to our chapter.

**The next board meeting will be Feb. 26 at 10 a.m.**



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Feb. 25, 2022

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Stell Simonton  
SPJ Georgia Board Secretary