1. Call to Order – Tarquinio

2. Roll Call – Hall
   a. Tarquinio
   b. Gallagher-Newberry
   c. Hall
   d. Kopen-Katcef
   e. Bartlett
   f. Fox
   g. Kissel
   h. Koretzky
   i. Krol
   j. Meyers
   k. Radske
   l. Reilley
   m. Savino
   n. Schotz
   o. South
   p. Walker

3. President’s Report – Tarquinio

4. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Tarquinio

   Executive Session:

4. President’s Report cont’d. (Personnel updates, appointed directors) – Tarquinio

5. EIJ Updates – Tarquinio

6. Sponsorship task force report – Gallagher-Newberry

7. Executive Director annual review – Tarquinio, Gratz, Gallagher-Newberry

Exit Executive Session:

8. Adjournment
The Society of Professional Journalists
Board of Directors Zoom Meeting
Dec. 1, 2018
Noon – 2 p.m. EST

Improving and Protecting Journalism Since 1909

The Society of Professional Journalists is the nation’s largest and most broad-based journalism organization, dedicated to encouraging the free practice of journalism and stimulating high standards of ethical behavior.

Founded in 1909 as Sigma Delta Chi, SPJ promotes the free flow of information vital to a well-informed citizenry, works to inspire and educate the next generation of journalists, and protects First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and press.
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Exit Executive Session:

8. Adjournment
DATE: Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018
FROM: J. Alex Tarquinio, SPJ President
FOR: SPJ national board

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Colleagues,

Welcome to the new SPJ board. As we all know, the board size and structure will alter dramatically next year. Towards this admirable end, we’re putting into place the philosophical realignment that inspired this structural transformation. We’re addressing long-term questions about SPJ policies, partnerships and vision, while clarifying how we will operate in the future to achieve the goal set by the delegates who voted to form a more strategic board.

This report is one example of this evolving transition. Traditionally, the full board had met in person for meetings twice a year, in April and September, and the president had written a formal report for those meetings. Under the new model, focused on long-term strategic goal setting, I’ve scheduled video conference meetings for December, February and June. I plan to take each of these opportunities to update you about our activities since the prior meeting.

Each of the video meetings will have a theme. Today we’re looking at how we manage our annual Excellence in Journalism (EIJ) conference and sponsorships. In February we’ll focus on membership and in June we’ll spotlight partnerships. We’re spreading these discussions throughout the year in order to give us leeway in our spring meeting to debate the big ideas about how our society can better serve the needs of journalists and promote the preservation of freedom of speech and of the press in this dynamically changing news ecosystem.

Much of my time during the first two months has been spent rebuilding crucial national committees and launching new task forces. The new Diversity Committee is already having some exciting conversations about how to strengthen our annual Diversity Fellows program. Another will connect with young members, particularly post-grads. I’d like both to coordinate with our Membership Committee, which also has a new chair. All of these committees are still being composed, so members should contact me if they’re interested in becoming involved.

On the task force front, I would like this board to think of itself as the “new broom.” For years, much of board policy has resided in old meeting minutes. The board would pass or revise a
policy, but later there was no easy way for future board members to look this up or to feel confident that it was the most recent policy. President-Elect Patti Gallagher Newberry chaired a task force to bring our EIJ sponsorship policy into the modern era, as the last known policy was written before we began co-producing our annual conference. The Sponsorship Task Force completed its report at a brisk pace for the board’s consideration in today’s meeting. I’ve also appointed Secretary-Treasurer Matt Hall to lead a new Board Policy Review Task Force that will inventory old policies and recommend updates for those that appear to be outdated. Once the review is complete, all of these policies should reside on our website, in a place that is easy for all members to access, and a backup copy should be kept in print at our headquarters.

Advocacy is another key goal for this year. Our society has traditionally been strong in this department. One of the signature events of these first two months was the release of an open letter to the White House demanding an independent investigation of the killing of Jamal Khashoggi on Oct. 19. Furthermore, we made or joined in other advocacy statements supporting the reinstatement of CNN Chief White House Correspondent Jim Acosta’s press pass and in NAJA’s urging of the reinstatement of the free press ordinance. At the same time and to its credit, the Legal Defense Fund signed eight legal briefs.

We’ve been busy making statements to the media and personal appearances. I’ve appeared twice as a guest on the News Breakfast program of the Australian Broadcasting Corp., first to talk about President Donald Trump’s anti-press rhetoric after our open letter to the White House, then, while in Paris during the Armistice Day celebrations, to talk about the importance of reporters in war, among other topics. I also participated on a panel discussion at the annual conference of the Connecticut Broadcasters Association. I gave a radio interview to Voice of America (VOA) about SPJ’s statement condemning the revocation of Acosta’s White House credentials. Ethics chair Lynn Walsh was quoted in the Chicago Tribune and in the University of Cincinnati’s student newspaper, the News Record. Executive Director Alison Bethel McKenzie gave interviews to Sky News of London, the VOA and a student paper at Marist College.

When I ran for this office more than a year ago, I emphasized that I wanted to put the full weight of our organization behind advocacy and partnerships, both nationally and internationally. With this in mind, I’ve made two trips to the United Nations in New York. At the first, along with RTDNA’s executive director Dan Shelley, I spoke to a group of 25 top-tier global journalists about disinformation on Oct. 5. At the second event, on Nov. 2, I attended UNESCO’s “Day of Impunity,” highlighting the need to end impunity for the killing of journalists.

On Nov. 11, the centennial of the end of the first world war, I attended a Reporters Without Borders (RSF) event within the first annual Paris Peace Forum. The president of France introduced the session, which was attended by many heads of state. Although I’ve documented this event thoroughly in my Quill column, it is worth noting some of the contacts that I made, or remade, while representing SPJ there, to include Christophe Deloire, RSF Secretary-General; Aidan White, founder and president of the London-based Ethical Journalism Network; Bertrand Pecquerie, CEO of the Paris-based Global Editors Network; Patrick Gaspard, President of the Open Society Foundation; Bruno Stagno-Ugarte, Deputy Executive Director of Human Rights...
Watch; Maria Ressa, a journalist and the CEO of Rappler, a news website in the Philippines that has been harassed by the country’s president; and Roberta Annan, the daughter of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and a development advocate, as well as many global journalists.

It has been a busy two months, and we’re still setting the wheels in motion to launch some of our signature projects for the year. Onward!
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society of Professional Journalists was called to order at 2:55 p.m. EDT on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2018, via conference call.

Those present were: President J. Alex Tarquinio; President-elect Patti Newberry; Secretary-Treasurer Matt Hall; Vice President of Campus Chapter Affairs Sue Kopen Katcef; Director At-Large Tess Fox; Director At-Large Mike Reilley; Director At-Large Michael Savino; Director At-Large Yvette Walker; Region 3 Director Michael Koretzky; Region 10 Director Don Meyers and Region 12 Director Kelly Kissel. Staff members present for the meeting were Executive Director Alison Bethel McKenzie and Director of Communications and Marketing Jennifer Royer.

NEW BUSINESS

Kings College in Manhattan has fulfilled all requirements for establishing an SPJ campus chapter and are requesting the board approve their new chapter. They currently have 22 members. Kissel motioned to approve. Hall seconded. Vote: approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Newberry to go into Executive Session. Second by Kopen Katcef. Board went into Executive Session at 3:01 p.m. EDT.

At 3:58 p.m. Newberry made a motion to exit executive session. Kopen Katcef seconded.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The board unanimously voted to appoint Deb Krol as Region 11 Director, to replace Matt Hall who was elected secretary-treasurer in September.

Meyers motioned to approve the names of nominees who will be asked to join the board as one-year at-large members. Reilley seconded. Vote: approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Hall motioned to adjourn. Savino seconded. Upon proper motion and vote, the SPJ Board of Directors conference call adjourned at 4:04 p.m. EDT.