

AGENDA

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

Board meeting

Via Zoom [<https://zoom.us/j/659552255>]

Oct. 19, 2019

Noon-2 p.m. ET

1. Call to order – Newberry
 2. Roll Call – Aguilar
 - Patricia Gallagher Newberry
 - Matt Hall
 - Rebecca Aguilar
 - Lauren Bartlett
 - Ivette Davila-Richards
 - Victor Hernandez
 - Tess Fox
 - Mike Reilley
 - Yvette Walker
 - Andy Schotz (parliamentarian)
 3. [Draft minutes](#) of 9/5/19 and 9/8/19 meetings – Newberry
 4. President's report (attached) – Newberry
 5. Update on search for executive director – Hagit Limor
 6. Update on Task Force on Strategic Planning – Hall
 7. Update on Task Force on EIJ Sponsorship – Newberry
 8. Update on SPJ policy manual -- Hall
 9. Report on EIJ19 – Newberry
 10. Finance report – Jake Koenig
 11. Committee reports
 12. Public comment
- Enter Executive Session**
13. Executive director contract
 14. EIJ20 contract
 15. SPJ partnership contracts

16. Data management contract

17. Legal fees

18. Board appointees

Exit Executive Session

19. Adjournment

Oct. 19, 2019

To: SPJ Board of Directors and SPJ members
From: Patricia Gallagher Newberry, board president
Re: Work to date

Hello all –

It's been a busy six weeks since San Antonio and Excellence in Journalism 2019. I write today to share updates on our progress:

- We've moved forward to populate a new committee, which will share the work of programming for EIJ20 in Washington, D.C. I will chair the committee, with Matt Hall, Mike Reilley, Daisy Contreras, AmyJo Brown, Dee Ann Divis and April Bethea as members.
- We've established the members of a new task force on EIJ21 sponsorships, as directed by vote of delegates at EIJ19. Matt Hall will represent the board, with members to include Rob Elder of the Chicago chapter, Joel Bellman from Los Angeles, Colin DeVries from New York, Andy Schotz from Washington, D.C., with Becky Tallent, Maria G. Ortiz-Briones, Nerissa Young and Rebecca David as unaffiliated members.
- As reported at EIJ19, we've confirmed the chairs of existing committees and communities, along with membership in the Strategic Planning Task Force for its second year.
- We've established a new organizational chart for the board, to keep in touch with all parts of the SPJ universe.
- Thanks to the great planning and efforts of staff and volunteers at SPJ, RTDNA and NAHJ, we staged a very successful EIJ19. Results, by the numbers:
 - 1,884 – Number of participants, more than 2017 when SPJ last partnered with both RTDNA and NAHJ.
 - 59 – Number of exhibitors, up from 57 at EIJ17.
 - 32 – Number of EIJ sponsors.
 - 15 – Percentage of student attendees.
 - 25 – Percentage (or 473 people) of SPJ-member attendees.
 - 12 – Percentage (or 233 people) of RTDNA-member attendees.
 - 35 – Percentage (or 653 people) of NAHJ-member attendees.
 - 1,082 – Number of attendees who downloaded the EIJ19 app.
 - 81 – Percentage of app users considered “actively engaged” on the app.
 - 13,000 – Number of visits to the conference web site.

As a Society, we've also been active on the advocacy front in recent weeks. We've issued statements critical of:

- a Customs and Border Protection official attempting to hold the passport of journalist Ben Watson to make him admit to writing “propaganda.”
- the Trump administration for banning media access to “tent-immigration courts” in Laredo and Brownsville, Texas, where asylum seekers seek entry to the United States.
- a video portraying a Trump meme shooting or otherwise assaulting memes marked with media logos or faces of political adversaries.

Through our Legal Defense Fund, in the last six weeks, we've joined with other press-rights groups to:

- note that Massachusetts wiretapping statutes are unconstitutional.

- press the state of Indiana to maintain access to information about the drugs the state uses for executions.
- request timely release of audio recordings of Supreme Court proceedings.
- help a New York TV station fight a defamation suit brought by a teacher misnamed in a story about bullying of students.
- assist another New York station obtain body-camera footage from the New York Police Department under the state's Freedom of Information Law.

My first weeks as board president have also included some travel and speaking engagements:

- I participated in the 15th annual Poynter/Kent State Ethics workshop in Kent, Ohio, on Sept. 19, where I presented a "what would you do" session for students related to the Covington Catholic case.
- I visited DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, on Oct. 7, to participate in the visit of investigative reporter Brandon Smith.
- I made the traditional "first chapter" visit to the Fort Worth, Texas, chapter on Oct. 11-13, where I spoke at a dinner and was treated to a city tour by former board member Eddye Gallagher and her husband, Ed.
- Later this month, I will represent SPJ (and my employer) at a Bob Woodward event in Cincinnati, and participate in the College Media Association conference and SPJ's new #PresstheFlesh event in Washington, D.C.
- Finally, I've penned three Freedom of the Prez blog posts (one with mini-bios of the board, one about our new org chart, and one about our new list of "best of the best" in chapter programming and fundraising) and an upcoming *Quill* article (about the history of women in SPJ); and fielded a steady flow of questions from members, board members and staff.

Finally, the board has been in discussion about the search for our next executive director; our picks for two board appointees; the data management needs at headquarters; contracts that guide our partnerships; and some changes in management of EIJ20. Given that those topics involve contracts or personnel-type considerations, we'll discuss them in executive session during the board meeting and share any decisions as soon after as practical.