MEETING MINUTES
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
CLOSING BUSINESS MEETING
SPJ21

September 4, 2021
Conducted via Zoom

Call to Order

Matthew T. Hall, President of the Society of Professional Journalists, called the meeting to order via Zoom at 4:03pm ET.

Presidential remarks

President Hall reflected on the year just concluded. He spoke about reflective conversations and the bylaws amendments and spoke about the transparency to chapters, and encouraging discussion of these issues. It is the process working as it should, Hall reflected on his time as president amid the challenges with trust in the media and attacks against journalists. He echoed this motto: "Service over self. Respect for all." He encouraged the conversation to follow to be civil, and if we don't believe that journalism matters, no one will.

Voting procedures

Bill McCloskey, the parliamentarian, explained the process and reminded delegates with multiple votes that the additional votes will be used as needed. John Shertzer, executive director, said there were 53 delegates present representing 81 votes, with the spread being 28. McCloskey continued that some votes require a 2/3 majority. McCloskey discussed utilization of the Zoom poll and integrating it into the process.

Election results

John Shertzer, Executive Director, confirmed the results of elections for the SPJ Board of Directors and Regional Coordinators. Voting concluded at noon ET on Sept. 4 preceding 48 hours of voting.

Regional coordinators (winner in bold):
Region 1: **Chris Vaccaro** (186 votes). Vaccaro ran unopposed.
Region 2: **Stephenie Overman** (99 votes). Overman ran unopposed.
Region 3: **Michael Koretzky** (48 votes), Joanna Hernandez (39 votes).
Region 6: **Joe Radske** (28 votes). Radske ran unopposed.

Region 7: **Jason Edwards** (19 votes). Edwards ran unopposed.
Region 10: **Don Meyers** (39 votes). Meyers ran unopposed.
Region 11: **Bryan Horwath** (87 votes). Horwath ran unopposed.
Region 12: **Jennifer Ellis** (44 votes). Ellis ran unopposed.

At-Large Director (winners in bold):
Emily Bloch (514 votes), **Daniela Ibarra** (376 votes), Tom McKee (292 votes), Dan Axelrod (189 votes), Jason Parsley (128 votes), Alex Veeneman (119 votes), Greg Hitchcock (49 votes)

Secretary-Treasurer (winner in bold):
Ivette Davila-Richards (413 votes) Danielle McLean (347 votes), Jonathan Make (143 votes)

President-elect (winner in bold):
Claire Regan (521 votes), Andrew Seaman (408 votes)

Shertzer announced that Rebecca Aguilar will be president, and confirmed that the election was conducted electronically – with results verified by him and Patti Gallagher-Newberry, nominations committee chair. There were 948 voters.

Approval of Business Meeting minutes

Lauren Bartlett (Region 11) made a motion to approve the minutes, and Michael Drudge (San Antonio Pro) seconded it. The motion passed.

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

President Hall said there are 6 amendments to consider:
Proposal A concerns housekeeping changes
Proposal B concerns how the selection of campus chapter advisers are made
Proposal C concerns the nominations timeline so candidates declare 6 weeks before the election
Proposal D concerns the number of Fellows of the Society named annually
Proposal E concerns changing the role of President-Elect to Vice President
Proposal F concerns the bylaws amendments addressing how SPJ communities participate in the Society's governance

Lauren Bartlett (Region 11) made a motion to consider Proposals A and B in a block, seconded by Hazel Becker (DC Pro). The motion passed overwhelmingly.

Lauren Bartlett (Region 11) made a motion to approve Proposals A and B, seconded by Irwin Gratz (Maine Pro). The motion passed overwhelmingly.

Andy Schotz (Region 2) made a motion to approve Proposal C, seconded by Lauren Bartlett (Region 11). After a friendly amendment offered by Jennifer Ellis (Arkansas Pro) and debate, the motion as amended passed.

Lauren Bartlett (Region 11) made a motion to start discussions on Proposal D, seconded by Beth Konrad (Detroit Pro). After discussion and amendments, the motion passes.

Lauren Bartlett (Region 11) made a motion to start discussion on Proposal E, seconded by Georgiana Vines (East Tennessee Pro). After surrounding discussion, an amendment from Colin DeVries (Deadline Club) is tabled. Following corrections, after Proposal F passed, the standing amendment failed and the motion passed originally as written.

Discussion moves to Proposal F. After discussion and amendments, along with technical issues with the Zoom platform, the motion passed.

Convention Resolutions

Andy Schotz (Region 2) made a motion to consolidate all of the resolutions except 10 and 11 into one block, which was seconded by Lauren Bartlett (Region 11). The motion is adopted. Bartlett made a further motion to approve the block, seconded by Irwin Gratz (Maine Pro). The motion passed.

Resolution 10 calls for SPJ communities to receive member management support. The resolution was withdrawn by Colin DeVries (Deadline Club) who co-sponsored it.

Resolution 11 called for a study to be done about the impact of proposed changes to SPJ bylaws. After amendments, the resolution passed.

Swearing in of New Officers and announcements

The oath of office was administered by President Hall first to the Board of Directors, except Ivette Davila-Richards, and Regional Coordinators.

Resolution 13, thanking Matthew T. Hall for his work as president, and Resolution 14, thanking staff at SPJ HQ, were then read.

Bob Butler, head of SPJ News, discussed the work of his students and highlighted the stories that they worked on, including those students who evacuated due to Hurricane Ida and looked forward to next year.

The oath of office was then administered by President Hall to Ivette Davila-Richards after technical issues were resolved. Hall then administered the oath to Rebecca Aguilar as president.

Adjournment

At approximately 7:08pm ET, Rebecca Aguilar made a motion to adjourn, seconded by a university delegate, which passed unanimously.