

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
SEPTEMBER 7, 2008
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

With President Dave Aeikens presiding, the meeting of the board of directors of the Society of Professional Journalists was called to order at 9:05 a.m. on Sunday, September 7, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.

ROLL CALL

In addition to Aeikens, the following were present: President-Elect Kevin Smith; Secretary-Treasurer Hagit Limor; Vice President for Campus Chapter Affairs Neil Ralston; Directors at-Large Michael Koretzky and Bill McCloskey; Campus Advisers at-Large Sue Kopen Katcef and Mead Loop; Student Representatives Erin Riley and America Arias; Regional Directors Luther Turmelle, Ann Augheron, Darcie Lunsford, Jeremy Steele, Liz Hansen, Gordon Govier, Holly Edgell, Scott Cooper, John Ensslin, Scott Maben, Sonya Smith and Sonny Albarado.

Staff members present for the meeting were Executive Director Terry Harper and Associate Executive Directors Chris Vachon and Joe Skeel.

Others in attendance were SDX Foundation President Steve Geimann and FOI Committee Chairman Dave Cuillier.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Executive Committee is comprised of the President; President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer; Vice President, Campus Chapter Affairs; Immediate Past President; and two at-large members elected by the board of directors.

Aeikens opened the floor to nominations for the two at-large seats on the executive committee.

Upon proper motion and second by Steele and Albarado, respectively, McCloskey and Lunsford were nominated to serve on the Executive Committee.

There being no further nominations, Sue Kopen Katcef and Ann Augheron, respectively, made a motion and second to close nominations. That motion carried and McCloskey and Lunsford were unanimously elected to serve on the executive committee.

SIGMA DELTA CHI FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The SPJ President may appoint as many SPJ board members to the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation board of directors so long as the majority of the Foundation directors are independently elected by the Foundation board. Aeikens announced the following one-year appointments to the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation board of directors: Brewer, Smith, Limor, Ralston, Augheron, Kopen Katcef, Lunsford and Aeikens.

Upon proper motion and second by Smith and McCloskey, respectively, the above named SPJ board members are appointed to the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation Board.

Aeikens also asked the board to ratify the elections of the officers and directors of the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation.

Officers elected to one-year terms were:

- Vice President Robert Leger
- Secretary Irwin Gratz
- Treasurer Howard Dubin

One office will be elected to a two year term:

— President Steve Geimann

Foundation directors elected to three-year terms, expiring in 2011, were:

— Fred Brown

— Jay Evensen

— Jane Kirtley

— Sally Lehrman

— Dori Maynard

— Mac McKerral

— Sue Porter

Upon proper motion and second by Loop and Ralston, respectively, the board ratified the election of the officers and directors to the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation Board.

COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS

President Aeikens presented to the board his recommendations for committees and their chairs for the upcoming year. Aeikens requested that the board approve the creation of two new committees and the elimination of one committee. He has created a Government Relations committee which will lead the way as we work to pass a federal shield law and keep track of other legislation. The second new committee, the Digital Media committee, will advise the board and staff on how SPJ can stay on the forefront of the changing industry. The Project Watchdog committee is being eliminated.

The committees and their chairs for 2008-09 are as follows:

— Awards

Chair: Ginny Frizzy

Vice Chair: Bruce Cadwallader

— Bylaws

Chair: Robert Becker

— Convention Programming

Chair: Molly McDonough

— Digital Media

Chair: Ray Marcano

Vice Chair: Ron Sylvester

— Diversity

Chair: Pueng Vongs

Vice Chair: Linda Jue

— Ethics

Chair: Andy Schotz

Vice Chair: Fred Brown

— FOI

Chair: David Cuillier

Vice Chair: Joe Adams

— Freelance:

Chair: Amy Green

Vice Chair: Stephenie Overman

— Gen J

Chair: Rebecca Neal

Vice Chair: Aiesha Little

— Government Relations

Chair: Clint Brewer

Vice Chair: Steve Taylor

— Journalism Education

Chair: George Daniels

Vice Chair: Mead Loop

— International

Chair: June Nicholson

Vice Chair: Ricardo Sandoval

— Legal Defense Fund

Chair: Julie Kay

Vice Chair: Holly Fisher

— Membership

Chair: John Huotari

Vice Chair: Ellen Mrja

— Professional Development

Chair: Deb Wenger

Vice Chair: Kara Sassone

— Public Outreach:

Chair: Brian Bellmont

Vice Chair: Lauren Bartlett

— Resolutions:

Chair: Al Cross

FINANCE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Finance Committee is comprised of the President; the President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer; Vice President, Campus Chapter Affairs; Immediate Past President; and two at-large members appointed by the President and ratified by the board of directors. President Aeikens recommends Bill McCloskey and Scott Maben to the committee.

Upon proper motion and second by Loop and Kopen Katcef, respectively, the board ratified the appointment of McCloskey and Maben to the Finance Committee.

HISTORIC SITES IN JOURNALISM

President Aeikens shared with the board a nomination for the Historic Site in Journalism Award presented each year to an individual, news organization or place of national historic interest.

This year's nomination is for Hubbard Broadcasting, St. Paul, Minn. Hubbard Broadcasting was started in 1923 and has been a pioneer in radio and television. They are one of the few large family-owned broadcasting still operating in the U.S.

Upon proper motion and second by Brewer and Govier, respectively, the board selected Hubbard Broadcasting as the recipient of this year's Historic Site in Journalism Award.

CITIZEN JOURNALISM ACADEMY

A memo from past president Christie Tatum provided information to the board about SPJ's Citizen Journalism Academy program. In the memo, Tatum makes recommendations on ways to improve future programs, such as with regional training faculty and marketing strategies. She highly encourages SPJ to continue to provide these training programs.

In addition, Tatum is asking for the board to endorse hosting one more program in Denver with the grant money that has not been spent.

Upon proper motion and second by Brewer and Kopen Katcef, respectively, the board approved one more CJA program to be conducted with the site to be selected by the staff.

Upon proper motion and second by McCloskey and Kopen Katcef, respectively, the board requested that the staff seek outside funding to host more CJA programs during the 2008-09 fiscal year.

SPRING CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Regional Directors were asked to supply the board with dates and places for their respective Spring Conference and the information is as follows:

REGION 1: APRIL 24-25, PHILADELPHIA

REGION 2: TBA

REGION 3: APRIL 3-4, FT. LAUDERDALE

REGION 4: TBA, COLUMBUS, OHIO

REGION 5: APRIL 3-4, INDIANAPOLIS

REGION 6: MARCH 28-29, TBA

REGION 7: TBA, ST. LOUIS

REGION 8: TBA, FT. WORTH

REGION 9: TBA, SALT LAKE CITY

REGION 10: APRIL 17-18, MISSOULA, MONT.

REGION 11: APRIL 3-4, PHOENIX

REGION 12: APRIL 3-4, LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

OLD BUSINESS

Upon proper motion and second by McCloskey and Lunsford, respectively, the board approved taking the discussion topic of the threshold for determination of large and small chapter definition off the table from the September 3, 2008 meeting.

The Regional Directors discussed this with the chapter leaders at their regional meetings and then met as a Regional Director group and determined that it is not necessary to change the threshold from 75 to 60 to define a large and small chapter.

Upon proper motion and second by Lunsford and Maben, respectively, the board did not approve the motion to change the threshold from 75 to 60 to define large and small chapters.

REPORT FROM REGIONAL DIRECTORS

The Regional Directors discussed the future of annual reports and they do not support the elimination of the reports, instead they recommend revision of the star system.

The Regional Directors asked that consideration be given to moving the Wednesday board meeting at the convention to Thursday to allow for a little more time in the office before traveling to the convention city.

Finally, the Regional Directors wanted to suggest that, when possible, increasing stipends would be helpful especially in the area of getting younger member involved in the board.

BOARD ORIENTATION

Laurie Babinski, Baker Hostetler, conducted an orientation session for the board of directors where she reviewed their responsibilities and duties of being a member of the national board of directors for the

Society.

NEW BUSINESS

Based on the suggestion from the Regional Directors, a proper motion and second by Brewer and Kopen Katcef, respectively, was made to move the Wednesday convention board meeting to Thursday of the convention.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Smith and Ralston to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m.