

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
FEB. 15, 2015
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

With President-Elect Lynn Walsh presiding, the meeting of the board of directors of the Society of Professional Journalists was called to order at 1:07 p.m. ET on Monday, Feb. 15, 2016, via Zoom conference service.

In addition to Walsh the following were present: Secretary Treasurer Rebecca Baker; Vice President of Campus Chapter Affairs Sue Kopen Katcef; At Large Directors Bill McCloskey and Alex Tarquinio; Campus Advisers At Large Mike Reilley and Becky Tallent; Regional Directors Jane Primerano, Andy Schotz, Michael Koretzky, Patti Newberry Gallagher, Deborah Givens, Joe Radske, Rob McLean, Eddy Gallagher, Tom Johnson and Matt Hall.

Staff members present for the meeting were Executive Director Joe Skeel and Membership Strategist Tara Puckey.

The primary purpose of the call was to appoint a Region 7 Director to replace Rob McLean, who moved out of his region.

REGION 7 DIRECTOR

Puckey shared that five board members didn't rank the applicants.

Stephanie Wilken had the highest ranking. Repps Hudson and Colleen Krantz tied for second and Louise Ann Noeth ranked fourth.

Tarquinio asked McLean if he knew any of the applicants. McLean said he knew two of them, explaining that Wilken is very involved with SPJ. He shared that she attended the spring conference and is a Ted Scripps Leadership graduate.

McLean said he has had a couple e-mail exchanges with Noeth. He believed that she helped with the MOE contest, but wasn't sure.

Koretzky asked how much the board should weigh diverse professional backgrounds.

Tarquinio questioned what criteria should be considered. Her rankings were based on journalism experience. However, Wilken has more experience than others within SPJ.

McLean shared that Wilken has a working relationship with the regional treasurer, as they both work at the VFW magazine.

Gallagher Newberry said that while the other three candidates have interesting resumes, for the short-term appointment, she would choose the person with most exposure to SPJ.

Koretzky wonders if this would be a good time to take a chance on an applicant, since it's a short-term appointment.

McLean cautioned against this, stating that whoever is selected will be heavily involved in the new Region 7 Fellowship program.

Tarquinio asked if we need to look at the process more, being concerned that whoever the board appoints have an upper hand during the election.

Hall echoed that a more formal process be used, suggesting something as simple as three questions outlining SPJ experience.

Secondly, Hall pointed out the value of the Scripps program – and how that can be a stepping stone for those interested in leadership.

McCloskey recommends using the general election form when seeking interim regional director candidates.

Schotz asked if the board could delay this decision, ask them to flesh out their SPJ credentials and vote at a later date.

Walsh asked Puckey if we were up against a deadline because of the timing of Rob's departure. Tara shared that we have about 12 days until Rob's term officially ends.

Upon proper motion by McCloskey and second by Radske, the board selected Stephanie Wilkins to fill the temporary position of Region 7 director. Schotz, Tarquinio and McLean abstain.

Upon proper motion by McCloskey and second by Schotz, the board voted to ask the same questions – specifically regarding SPJ experience – used during the general election when seeking interim board candidates.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon proper motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m., Monday, Feb. 15, 2015.