

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
June 5, 2015
SKYPE CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

With President Dana Neuts presiding, the meeting of the board of directors of the Society of Professional Journalists was called to order at 1:09 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2015, via Skype conference call.

In addition to Neuts the following were present: President-Elect Paul Fletcher; Immediate Past President David Cuillier; Director at-Large Bill McCloskey; Campus Adviser At-Large Becky Tallent; Student Representative Jordan Gass-Pooré; Regional Directors Andy Schotz, Michael Koretzky, Rob McLean, Tom Johnson, Matt Hall and Amanda Womac. Ethics Committee Chair Andrew Seaman was also present.

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

The primary purpose of the call was to discuss usage of the SPJ logo in conjunction with the AirPlay event being held in August as part of the Region 3 conference. AirPlay is a program Koretzky is organizing to talk about the GamerGate movement and ethics in video game journalism."

The board also briefly discussed a session at the Region 3 conference regarding drones. Some had initial concerns about the legalities surrounding the event.

However, there was not a quorum, so official business could not be conducted. The group discussed the following issues anyway, but took no official vote on either.

SPJ LOGO

Neuts gave background on how the idea of the AirPlay event at the Region 3 conference came about and that initially, Koretzky and Region 3 had been using the SPJ National logo to promote the event. SPJ National's position was that it did not endorse AirPlay and had no interest in engaging GamerGate. AirPlay was viewed as a regional/chapter program being conducted outside the purview of the national organization. Any questions or comments about the program were forwarded to Koretzky.

Upon learning that the logo was being used on the AirPlay site, Skeel asked Koretzky to refrain from using the logo – citing the national organization's desire to not engage the GamerGate community. Koretzky obliged, but asked that the board reconsider. This was the purpose of the call.

The conversation lasted about 40 minutes. There were several questions about the GamerGate movement. Many saw value in engaging a new audience, with the idea of spreading SPJ's Code of Ethics principles. Others applauded Koretzky's willingness to engage GamerGate, which has a reputation of being hostile. However, lending SPJ National's name and logo to the AirPlay event was not supported by the majority on the call.

No official vote could be taken, as there was no quorum. However, board members did share how they would have voted. Of the 11 members on the call, 10 said they would have voted against use of the logo, including Koretzky.

Koretzky thanked fellow board members for engaging in the conversation,

The call ended at 1:55 p.m. ET on Friday, June 5.