

**MINUTES**  
**OPENING BUSINESS SESSION OF THE**  
**SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS**  
**SEPT. 18, 2016**  
**NEW ORLEANS, LA.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

With President Paul Fletcher presiding, the Opening Business Session was called to order at 5:05 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016, at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel in New Orleans, La.

**ROLE OF THE CONVENTION GOVERNANCE IN SPJ**

Fletcher welcomed those in attendance to New Orleans and the annual convention of delegates. Delegates provide direction for the society to best serve its members, he explained. He also outlined voting procedures for bylaws changes and resolutions.

**NOMINATIONS REPORT**

Fletcher explained that full bios of the SPJ Board of Directors can be found on spj.org and the EIJ16 app. He then announced those candidates running for office and/or up for re-election, including:

President-elect: Rebecca Baker

Secretary-treasurer: Alex Tarquinio

Director at Large: Alex Veeneman, Elle Toussi, Rachel Wedding McClelland, Jason Parsley

Campus Adviser at Large: Chris Delboni and Leticia Lee Steffen

Campus Representatives (two positions): Emily Bloch, Maggie Gottlieb, Jessica Hice, Keem O. Muhammad and Katherine Rosenhammer

Region 1: Jane Primerano

Region 4: Patricia Gallagher Newberry

Region 5: Michele Day

Region 7: Kari Williams

Region 8: Eddy Gallagher

Region 9: Ed Otte

Lauren Bartlett made a motion to accept all candidates. Howard Dubin seconded. Motion passed.

Alex Veeneman was unable to attend.

Rebecca Baker delivered a speech.

Rachel Wedding McClelland delivered a speech.

Jason Parsley delivered a speech.

Susan Valet delivered a speech on behalf of Elle Toussi.

Chris Delboni delivered a speech.

Leticia Lee Steffen delivered a speech.

Jessica Hice and Katherine Rosenhammer were unable to attend.

Emily Bloch delivered a speech.

Maggie Gottlieb delivered a speech.

Keem Muhammad delivered a speech.

## **CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS INFORMATION**

Fletcher explained that 8 p.m. Sept. 18 is the deadline for submitting resolutions for consideration. They should be emailed to Sonny Albarado at [spjsonny@gmail.com](mailto:spjsonny@gmail.com). Resolution proposals would be available after 11 a.m. Tuesday and via the EIJ16 app in the “Closing Business Session” section within the “Schedule” view.

## **CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AND CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

Fletcher announced the winners of the Chapter of the Year and Circle of Excellence Awards for 2016. They were:

- Professional Development in Education: Large Chapter – Minnesota Pro; Small Chapter – Utah Headliners
- FOI: Large Chapter – Northern California Pro; Small Chapter – Rio Grande Pro
- Special Efforts in Diversity: Large Chapter – Chicago Headline Club; Small Chapter – Georgia Pro
- Outstanding Communication: Large Chapter – Los Angeles Pro; Small Chapter – Cleveland Pro
- Campus Relations: Large Chapter – Colorado Pro; Small Chapter – Hawaii Pro
- Large Chapter of the Year – Florida Pro and Press Club of Long Island
- Small Chapter of the Year – Cincinnati Pro

Fletcher congratulated all chapters on a fantastic year and recognized finalists Colorado Pro, Louisville Pro and Utah Headliners.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Fletcher asked if there was any other business to discuss and after hearing none, said the group would rejoin at the Tuesday afternoon closing business session.

**Under proper motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m. CT, Sunday, Sept. 18.**