

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS**  
**SEPT. 10, 2017**  
**ANAHEIM MARRIOTT**  
**ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

With President Rebecca Baker presiding, the meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. PT on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, at the Anaheim Marriott.

**ROLL CALL**

In addition to Baker, the following were present: President-elect Alex Tarquinio; Secretary-Treasurer Patti Gallagher Newberry; Immediate Past President Lynn Walsh; Vice President, Campus Chapter Affairs Sue Kopen Katcef; Directors At-Large Lauren Bartlett and Rachel Wedding McClelland; Campus Representative Hayley Harding; Campus Adviser At-Large Leticia Steffen; Regional Directors Jane Primerano; Andy Schotz; Michele Day; Joe Radske; Kari Williams; Eddy Gallagher; Ed Otte; Ethan Chung and Matt Hall.

Staff in attendance were Executive Director Joe Skeel, Associate Executive Director Tara Puckey and Communications Strategist Jennifer Royer.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Baker welcomed new members to the board and said she would like to match up new and old board members in a mentorship program.

**PRESIDENT'S GOALS**

Baker said her goal is continue focusing on the mission of SPJ and focusing on public education and community outreach of SPJ's mission. Details will be outlined in her first president's column in Quill magazine. She also talked about this in her speech the previous night. In summary, she said she wants to continue all the good work we're doing, look outward and make connections with the community and public.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS**

Baker appointed Robyn Davis Sekula as Membership Committee chair; Andrew Seaman as Ethics Committee chair; Schotz as Awards Committee Chair; Meena Thiruvengadam as Diversity Committee chair; Becky Tallent as Education Committee chair; Bob Becker as Bylaws Committee chair; Gallagher Newberry as Finance Committee chair; Danielle McLean as FOI Committee chair; Day as Resolutions Committee chair and Hagit Limor as LDF Committee chair.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Baker said the Executive Committee is comprised of the president, president-elect, secretary treasurer, vice president of campus chapter affairs, immediate past president and two at-large members selected by the board of directors.

There were three nominations for two spots on the board's Executive Committee: Radske nominated Bartlett and Primerano. Steffen seconded. Walsh nominated Hall. Schotz seconded.

**After a paper ballot vote, Primerano and Hall were voted onto the Executive Committee.**

### **SDX FOUNDATION BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

In addition to herself, Baker said she was appointing six people to the SDX Foundation board: Tarquinio, Gallagher Newberry, Kopen Katcef, Walsh, Radske and Schotz.

### **RATIFICATION OF SIGMA DELTA CHI FOUNDATION BOARD ELECTIONS**

The board ratifies the independently elected officers and directors of the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation. Officers elected were Irwin Gratz, vice president; Howard Dubin, secretary; Hagit Limor, treasurer. New members elected to the board were Michael Bolden, April Bethea, Robyn Sekula and Paul Fletcher. Continuing on the board are Kelly Hawes, Sonny Albarado, Jane Kirtley, Sally Lehrman and Fred Brown.

**Upon proper motion by Kopen Katcef and Hall second, the board voted unanimously to ratify the SDX Foundation elections.**

### **Finance Committee Appointments**

The Finance Committee is comprised of the president, president-elect, secretary-treasurer, vice president of campus chapter affairs, immediate past president and two at-large members appointed by the president and ratified by the board of directors. Baker appointed Hall and Bill McCloskey to the Finance Committee.

**Upon proper motion by Kopen Katcef and second by Steffen, the board voted unanimously to ratify the finance committee appointments.**

### **Old/New Business**

- a. Explanation of Wells Key selection – Baker said Walsh’s comments at the previous night’s banquet were absolutely appropriate. Walsh said Wells Key winner Bruce Sanford is energized, willing to help and gets fired up when something happens to a journalist. He was involved in Ethics Week planning, how we should respond to the climate with our president, he has been willing to look over language to see if there is a better way to say something. Walsh said she is very grateful to his service and his whole team. Leger added that what Baker Hostetler does for SPJ and what we pay them for is an incredible gap. Between tax law, legal defense fund, other legal things, we should have given him the Wells Key long ago. Leger then explained what the Wells Key is – SPJ’s highest honor, named after Chester Wells, who died in a car accident. It honors service above and beyond being a member of the organization. Sanford was present for the meeting and was introduced.
- b. Conflict of Interest forms – Skeel passed out the forms for board members to sign, agreeing that should a conflict arise, they will make them known immediately. Schotz added that the second to last paragraph includes stronger language than the past to say that after a board member states a conflict, they will remove themselves from discussion, leave the meeting, and will not vote on the topic.
- c. Board orientation – Mark Bailen of Baker Hostetler discussed each officer and director’s responsibilities and duties while serving as a member of the SPJ Board of Directors.
- d. Walsh discussed the hiring of the new executive director. Gratz is heading the selection committee. Members are Walsh, Leger, Baker, Emily Bloch, Evelyn Hsu, Sue Kopen Katcef, Bill Ketter and Andrew Seaman. Walsh would like the board to sign off on a job description before posting the job opening. She is not asking for line editing, but to let the committee know if things are missing or if something needs to be specifically added. Gratz said the hope is to have it posted with a deadline to apply of Oct. 31. The search committee can then do interviews in late November and early December, and hopes to have a candidate to vote on in January. The board will have to decide how the office will be administered between Dec. 1 and the hiring of a new executive director. Walsh told everyone to feel free to use her as a go-to for committee questions regarding the hiring of the new ED. It is important to hear concerns early on and she is willing to

pass along information to the committee. Baker said she is also willing to be a go-between for the board and the committee.

- e. Baker said she does not think meeting twice a year will be enough. She would like to plan a virtual meeting for mid-November to discuss the executive director search, then another virtual meeting toward the end of January to vote on the executive director nomination. There will be the regular April board meeting, then another virtual meeting in July and the regular board meeting in September.
- f. Newberry asked Baker to consider adding EIJ as a topic in the November meeting. She said it seems Quill and convention “are SPJ” for a lot of people and it seems the board really doesn’t talk much about EIJ. She has a lot of thoughts and would love to know the results of the post-convention survey.
- g. Newberry also said she would like the Quill conversation to continue, especially about an editorial board or publications committee. Leger said it is official and that he appointed an advisory board – Fletcher will chair it, Newberry will be a member.
- h. Newberry also said she was gratified the bylaws change went through. Baker congratulated Newberry and said the task force did a wonderful job. Newberry said she would like to propose the work of the task force continue, beginning the stages of strategic planning prep.

### **Adjournment**

Under proper motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at about 11 a.m. PT Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017.