



AGENDA

**SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

DATE: JANUARY 16, 2021

TIME: NOON EST

Meeting Called to Order

President Matthew T. Hall called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. EST.

Roll Call

Ivette Davila Richards called roll. Those present were: Hall, Rebecca Aguilar, Ivette Davila-Richards, Lauren Bartlett, Jerry McCormick, Rafael Olmeda, Claire Regan, Bey-Ling Sha and Yvette Walker.

Approval of Minutes

Board considered approval of the meeting minutes from Nov. 21, 2020 and January 2, 2021. It was noted that in the Nov. 21 minutes, the times of entering and exiting executive session are missing. For the Jan. 2 meeting, it was requested that a note be made that Anne Marie Adams did not attend the meeting after the board waited. Bartlett moved to approve minutes as amended. Walker seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report

Hall noted that many journalism groups are taking their conference virtual and some that are scheduled for September have not announced what they are doing yet. He noted we have put out a call for session proposals and Aguilar as program chair is leading those efforts. He applauded two new additions to the website: the Fellows section and a new Legal Defense Fund request form, and thanked Sue Kopen Katcef, Mike Reilley, Paul Fletcher and Billy O'Keefe for their work on those pages.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director John Shertzer said staff has been keeping very busy with programs and deadlines. He mentioned that we would be posting early next week a list of safety resources for journalists in anticipation of a busy week coming up, including the presidential inauguration, in the case of protests or riots surrounding those events. He also mentioned that Hall had a nice note in Leads showing support for journalists covering those stories. He said the membership number, as of today, is 5,896 and we're trending 120 more than we were at this time last year. He said we are pushing to get over the 6,000, but membership is pretty healthy given where we stand in the journalism world these days.

Public Comment Period

Members discussed filling leadership positions that become vacant between elections and why special elections can't occur. Parliamentarian Bob Becker explained that organizing a special election for a position that only needs to be filled for three or four months would be very time consuming. Having the board appoint someone allows the position to be filled quickly. Hall added that candidates are discussed in closed session out of fairness to those being considered.

The president of the Oregon Pro Chapter asked if the board would consider developing a formal process for revoking someone's membership. It was suggested that a committee look at the issue and report back to the board.

Enter Executive Session

Davila-Richards made a motion to enter executive session. Bartlett seconded. Board entered executive session at 12:35 p.m. EST.

Exit Executive Session

The board exited executive session at 1:45 p.m. EST.

Regional Coordinator Appointments

Bartlett made a motion to appoint Chris Vaccaro as Region 1 Coordinator. Olmeda seconded. Motion passed. Reagan, Davila-Richards and Sha abstained.

Bartlett made a motion to appoint Nancy Mayfield as Region 7 Coordinator. Olmeda seconded. Motion passed.

Convention Update

Shertzer said he was asking the board for a memorandum of understanding for staff to pursue a 2022 conference with ACP and CMA in Washington, D.C. A decision does not have to be made today for 2023, but soon. There was discussion about the 2021 conference scheduled for New Orleans and whether it should be virtual, a hybrid or in-person and the penalties for canceling.

Bartlett made a motion to enter an MOU with CMA and ACP for the 2022 conference in Washington, D.C. Walker seconded. Motion passed.

2021 SDX Awards

Shertzer asked the board to approve taking the SDX Awards banquet virtual again this year, adding that last year was the first time it was virtual and it was successful.

Bartlett made a motion to hold the SDX Awards ceremony virtually again in 2021. Aguilar seconded. Motion passed.

Committee and Community Reports

Reports were given by the Ethics Committee, FOI Committee, Bylaws Committee, Nominations Committee, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Journalism Education Committee and International Community.

Adjournment

Bartlett made a motion to adjourn. Olmeda seconded. Board meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. EST.