

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL  
JOURNALISTS OCT. 6, 2010  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
PLANET HOLLYWOOD HOTEL**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

With President Hagit Limor presiding, the meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010, at the Planet Hollywood Hotel.

**ROLL CALL**

In addition to Limor, the following were present: Immediate Past President Kevin Smith; President-Elect Darcie Lunsford; Secretary-Treasurer John Ensslin; Vice President for Campus Chapter Affairs Neil Ralston; Directors at-Large Bill McCloskey and Lauren Bartlett; Campus Advisers at-Large George Daniels and Kym Fox; Student Representative Tara Puckey; Regional Directors Luther Turmelle, Brian Eckert, Jenn Rowell, James Pilcher, Liz Hansen, Amanda Theisen, Kelsey Volkmann, Scott Cooper, Donald Meyers, Dana Neuts, Jodi Cleesattle and Sonny Albarado.

Staff members present were Executive Director Joe Skeel, Associate Executive Director Chris Vachon and Director of Communications Scott Leadingham.

**INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Board members introduced themselves, and newly elected members told of their background in and out of SPJ.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SELECTION**

**Upon proper motion and second by Cooper and Ralston, respectively, the board approved the nomination of Albarado and McCloskey to serve as at-large members on the SPJ Executive Committee.**

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE SIGMA DELTA CHI FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Hagit Limor announced the following were appointed to the SDX Foundation board of directors: Smith, Limor, Lunsford, Ensslin, Eckert, Hansen, Theisen, Neuts, Cleesattle and Bartlett.

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

Limor announced the slate of candidates that were elected the day before by the SDX Foundation board. The slate included: Steve Geimann, Dave Carlson, Al Cross, Howard Dubin, Hoag Levins, Russ Pulliam and Dave Aeikens

**Upon proper motion and second by Smith and Ralston, respectively, the board ratified the elections of the SDX Foundation board of directors.**

**COMMITTEE UPDATE**

President Limor announced the committee chairpersons for all SPJ committees and shared a roster of all committee members. Daniels asked if bios should be included on the SPJ website for all committee members. Limor said she would like that and encourage it, but not require it.

Limor said she is asking the Bylaws Committee to produce — ideally by April 2011 — a recommendation on how to proceed or not proceed with a potential bylaws change to allow a one person, one vote system.

The Public Outreach Committee will take a hiatus this year and explore options for securing funding for outreach efforts in the future.

Limor also announced appointments to the Finance Committee.

**Upon proper motion and second by Lunsford and Smith, respectively, the board ratified the at-large Finance Committee appointments of Albarado and McCloskey.**

## **INTRODUCTION OF THE 2010 DIVERSITY FELLOWS**

The Diversity Leadership Fellows for the 2010 Convention were introduced. Daniels explained the importance of the program and how it works at the convention and beyond. The 2010 fellows are Rumana Hussain, Paula Pant, Jigsha Desai, Nicole Livas, Amber Stearns and Reginald Ragland.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

Skeel discussed the conflict of interest policy and the importance of understanding and agreeing to it. He asked board members to sign a copy of the policy to keep on file.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Albarado was re-elected as the regional director caucus chairman at an earlier meeting. He presented issues of importance/concern on behalf of the regional directors.

The regional directors are concerned about a practice to not allow board of director candidates at regional meetings. He said it is an issue that may need to be addressed at this meeting or at the April board meeting. Ensslin suggested a time for board of directors candidates to have a town hall-style meeting at the convention.

Smith said he is unaware of a prohibition policy. President Limor suggested any such policies be reviewed with staff and then make a formal recommendation at the next board meeting.

Albarado continued with the regional director issues, saying the April 25th date for filing campus chapter reports may need to be changed, possibly to mid-May or the same time as pro chapter reports in June. Ralston said that a deadline is a deadline, but that doesn't mean the report needs to be filed and written on that deadline.

Albarado also said that a number of people have said members don't have a clear understanding of how money is and is not spent, and more detailed financial and budgetary information could be published in Quill or elsewhere.

Finally, Albarado reported that there is a concern about the way committee appointments are handled, and the regional directors feel there is a need to change the way board members are informed of new committee appointments. Smith suggested that those who are talking about these issues get together and figure out what, if any, changes they are actually seeking.

Albarado thanked Limor for opening the discussion on this topic and said the idea of changing bylaws on this issue is not a way he thinks the discussion should go.

## **THANKING KEVIN SMITH**

President Limor formally thanked Smith for his leadership as SPJ president over the preceding year.

## **BOARD TRAINING AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Baker Hostetler attorney Laurie Babinski provided board training on fiduciary responsibilities, general responsibilities of a board member and outlined conflicts of interests. She also provided an update on legislation SPJ is tracking and paying close attention to at the federal level.

## **LEGAL DEFENSE FUND AUCTION**

It was announced that the live and silent auctions for the Legal Defense Fund raised about \$8,000.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Upon proper motion and second by Cooper and McCloskey, respectively, the meeting was**

**adjourned at 11:16 a.m., Oct. 6.**