

**Minutes
Meeting of the Executive Committee
Society of Professional Journalists
RTDNA Headquarters
Washington, D.C.
June 21, 2014**

STREAMED LIVE AT WWW.SPJ.ORG

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

With President David Cuillier presiding, the Executive Committee of the Society of Professional Journalists was called to order at 9:20 a.m.

ROLL CALL

In addition to Cuillier, the following were in attendance: Secretary-treasurer Paul Fletcher, Immediate Past President Sonny Albarado, Vice President of Campus Chapter Affairs Sue Kopen Katcef and at-large member Bill McCloskey.

Also in attendance were Executive Director Joe Skeel, Associate Executive Director Chris Vachon, Chapter Coordinator Tara Puckey, SDX Foundation President Robert Leger and guests Bob Becker, Andy Schotz and Kathryn Foxhall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon proper motion by McCloskey and second by Kopen Katcef, the minutes from Jan. 18, 2014 and Feb. 20, 2014 were approved.

SPJ PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Cuillier shared that he has been busy since the board meeting in April, spending considerable time on SPJ's advocacy efforts.

SDX FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Leger indicated that most of his time has been spent on the possible transition of duties between SPJ and the foundation.

SPJ VISION

Puckey shared information about chapters and a more centralized concept. She discussed the possible evolution of groups (for lack of a better word) when there are situations where chapters won't work.

See Appendix A — Puckey memo re Centralized Concept

The executive committee's shared that SPJ needs to be nimble and because there is a group in Nebraska willing to test the concept, the Society do just that. If there is an update by EIJ14, the executive committee would like Tara to share it with the board.

SPJ SPRING BOARD MEETING LOCATIONS

The convention business in Indianapolis is booming. As a result, SPJ cannot secure sleeping rooms at any downtown Indy hotels for 2016. Skeel suggested looking at other cities for the spring board meeting. One suggestion is to go to the EIJ hotel for that year. Criteria for city selection is low airfares, decent hotel rates and walking to distance to dinner venues. The executive committee asked staff to put this topic on the

agenda for the fall board meeting.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR SPEECHES

Skeel shared there is a growing challenge with regional director speeches taking place at the opening business session of the annual conference. With many contested races, such as this year, the business session is expected to be quite lengthy. Skeel asked for support to have regional director candidates stay after the business session and have a speech recorded. Any attendee could stay and listen, and speeches would be posted to the website. The executive committee supported the idea, and also suggested that candidates be encouraged to make their own videos prior to EIJ. Staff should post them to the website along with their bios, mugs, etc.

SPJ FUTURES TASK FORCE

John Ensslin, who has been leading a task force that is generating ideas to make SPJ more relevant to the next generation of journalists, came up with a list of suggestions. He shared these ideas via conference call.

The task force surveyed more than 250 journalists under the age of 30, both members and non-members. Those findings were used to craft a list of 25 recommendations for the organization. Those recommendations were then vetted by the veteran members within the task force.

The executive committee commented on each of the 15 recommendations during its discussion with Ensslin. The list will be shared with the full board during the fall meeting.

ETHICS CODE REVISION UPDATE

The group revising the code is meeting on July 12 in Columbus, Ohio to pull together its work from the past six months. The goal is to have a draft to share with delegates at EIJ14. It was shared that SPJ.org is up-to-date with vast amounts of information, including: an explanation of the process; a blog; the current draft; and a list of those on the revision task force. The board will review the task force's draft and have the opportunity to make a recommendation to the delegates or send it back to committee. The delegates will have the opportunity to pass/reject/send back at EIJ14.

ADVOCACY FUND UPDATE

Cuillier had hoped to have an update for the group, but his draft is not done yet. He will have it done soon so that it can launch at EIJ14.

FREELANCE COMMUNITY UPDATE

The website is launching within the next few days. Members will sign-up to be a part of the community. Marketing efforts will need to be heavy.

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Nominations chair Sonny Albarado provided an update of the slate of officers for the September election.

HQ STAFF UPDATE

Skeel received approximately 50 applications for the new communications strategist position. 10 interviews are set up for next week. Skeel has a goal of having someone hired by July 10.

EIJ14 UPDATE

Cuillier is giving up the complimentary presidential suite to be used for anything and everything we may

need for the conference. In addition, Cuillier is foregoing the annual post-banquet gathering in the suite and instead is requesting an EIJ14 dance in its place.

SHIELD LAW UPDATE

Secretary-Treasurer Fletcher reported that SPJ is working with NAA and the number of senators favoring the proposed Shield Law is being tracked. Currently, there are 54 senators in favor. The goal is 60. Cuillier and Fletcher each visited with a senator during their time in D.C.

STREAMLINING OF SPJ AND SDX FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

The most pressing question for the SDX Foundation is if there needs to be a bylaws change regarding Quill. Based on input from our attorney, SPJ is not giving up ownership of Quill, the management of Quill is simply shifting. In the opinion of the SPJ/SDX attorney, no bylaws change is needed to move forward.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

SPJ member Kathryn Foxhall, who attended the meeting, addressed the group. She discussed the censorship of PIOs and the growing problem. She thanked Albarado and Cuillier for their support of her efforts. Foxhall's work was applauded by the executive committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned for lunch at noon.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon proper motion and second by McCloskey and Kopen Katcef, respectively, the committee went into executive session to discuss award nominations.

AWARDS DISCUSSION

Note from executive committee about all awards nomination forms — they should all be online forms. Awards committee should review all awards applications. Time for an overhaul.

ESHELMAN OUTSTANDING CAMPUS ADVISER

Upon proper motion and second by McCloskey and Fletcher, respectively, the committee voted down the motion to not select an Eshelman award winner.

Upon proper motion and second by Albarado and Fletcher, respectively, the committee awarded the Eshelman Outstanding Campus Adviser honor to Chris Delboni of Florida International University. Two in favor, one opposed and two abstained.

Kopen Katcef offered to review the Eshelman application to be sure we are requesting appropriate information, such as how many programs chapters conducted, how many chapter members attended the regional/national conference. Additionally, the committee directed staff to update the application to make it clear that the award is for an SPJ chapter adviser, not a media adviser.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING IN JOURNALISM

Upon proper motion and second by McCloskey and Kopen Katcef, respectively, the committee

awarded the Distinguished Teaching in Journalism honor to Sue Burzenski-Bullard from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The committee recommends the application be changed to include a CV and a letter from the dean/department heads along with support letters from students. Furthermore, the executive committee said, getting input from SPJ's Journalism Education Committee is invaluable.

ETHICS IN JOURNALISM

Upon proper motion and second by McCloskey and Kopen Katcef, respectively, the committee awarded the Ethics in Journalism award to Matt Apuzzo, Adam Goldman and Ted Bridis from The Associated Press.

FELLOWS OF THE SOCIETY

Michele Norris of NPR was selected prior to this meeting.

The executive committee recommends that the cycle of this award nomination process change so that the nominee list be ready for review at the January executive committee meeting. The committee said it would like to see a running list of nominees created from past nominees and would like Jerry Ceppos added to the list.

HISTORIC SITE IN JOURNALISM

Upon proper motion and second by Fletcher and Kopen Katcef, respectively, the committee awarded the Historic Site in Journalism to the city of Boston.

Staff should remind nominations person that we have awarded plaques to various Boston places in the past. The executive committee directed staff to contact the local chapter each time this award is given. The committee also recommended contacting the journalism history association for nominations. The group asked to roll over nominations from year to year. For next year, staff should roll over the Union Hotel and Harrisburg.

HOWARD DUBIN OUTSTANDING PRO MEMBER

Upon proper motion and second by Kopen Katcef and Fletcher, respectively, the committee awarded the large chapter category to Alex Tarquinio of the New York Deadline Club.

Upon proper motion and second by Albarado and McCloskey, respectively, the committee awarded the small chapter category to Mark Pitsch of the Madison Pro Chapter.

JULIE GALVAN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE IN JOURNALISM

Upon proper motion and second by Fletcher and Kopen Katcef, respectively, the committee awarded the Julie Galvin Outstanding Graduate in Journalism award to Rachel Minske from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire.

Committee members asked if someone could be nominated if they graduated in December. The committee directed staff to look at the nomination form and clarify if a student should be a graduate or current student. Furthermore, the preference of the committee was to refer to academic year in nomination. Lastly, the committee asked that a resume be part of the criteria.

SUNSHINE AWARD

Upon proper motion and second by Fletcher and Kopen Katcef, respectively, the committee awarded Sunshine Awards to The Guardian, the Center for Public Integrity and Robert Freeman

from New York State Committee on Open Government.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Upon proper motion and second by McCloskey and Kopen Katcef, respectively, the committee named Region 2 Director Andy Schotz as the Regional Director of the Year.

All non-officers left the meeting in order to select the Wells Memorial Key recipient.

WELLS MEMORIAL KEY

Upon proper motion and second by Fletcher and Kopen Katcef, respectively, the committee selected the recipient.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon proper motion and second by Albarado and Fletcher, respectively, the committee adjourned at 4 p.m., June 21, 2014.