

Society of Professional Journalists  
Minnesota Pro Chapter  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 9, 2008

Downtown Journal offices, Minneapolis

Board members present: Nicole Garrison-Sprenger, president; Scott Theisen, president-elect; Dave Beal, treasurer; Sarah Bauer, secretary; Joan Gilbertson, past president; Jeff Achen, Alyssa Ford, Art Hughes, Jane Kirtley, Karen Lundegaard, Amanda Lutz, Sarah McKenzie, Andy Tellijohn, directors; and Rick Kupchella, member/guest.

I. RNC Panel Discussion

- a. Board agreed that it's good that SPJ can respond quickly to what happened at the RNC. Board also agrees that panel should include Matt Bostrum, Dep. Mayor Anne Mullholland, Mark Anfinson with Al Tompkins (Poynter Institute) as moderator. Board will discuss by email which journalists should be on the panel.
- b. Hughes/Theisen and Pioneer Press reporter Mara Gottfried are compiling lists of journalists arrested during the RNC.
- c. Invitees should include: RCFP lawyers (Bill Tilton & George Dunn), arrested journalists, politicians, Minneapolis Police Department representatives, student journalists.
- d. Goal of program is to: discuss what went down during the RNC; to try and set up systems to avoid arresting journalists who are doing their job.
- e. Kupchella asked that the names/phone numbers/emails of all the panelists be sent to Al Tompkins; also asks that anyone with video or still photos of "what happened" to Jonathan Malat at KARE-11 ([jmalat@kare11.com](mailto:jmalat@kare11.com)), he also said that KARE wants to stream video live from the event.

II. Membership Survey

- a. Hughes presented a draft of the membership survey.
- b. Lundegaard suggests putting the first questions at the bottom of the survey.
- c. Survey will be sent to members via email in late September/early October.

III. National Convention Discussion

- a. Achen, Bauer & Garrison-Sprenger attended the national convention.
- b. Aeikens reports by email: "Nicole led the Generation J committee through a successful meeting, Jeff joined the Digital Media Committee and Sarah is continuing on membership. The chapter voted for the winning candidate in the presidential election. "
- c. Convention went well, and video from Aeiken's installation speech is available at the SPJ Web site.
- d. Representatives from St. Cloud State University, the University of St. Thomas and MN State-Mankato were present at the Region 6 meeting; each chapter will receive \$300 from the pro chapter for reimbursement of expenses.

IV. Programs Update

- a. Intern Night
  - i. Scheduled for October 1 at WCCO. Amanda Lutz will send notice to student chapters/leaders, information about registration, etc. by Sept. 15. Lutz asks board members to find presenters at each of their news organizations.

- b. Silha Lecture
    - i. Scheduled for Monday, October 6. All board officers are invited to luncheon at noon. Kirtley asks that if board members did not receive an invitation by mail, to contact her with your current address information.
  - c. How to Write a Book
    - i. Will postpone event until October/after the RNC panel (October 14?).
    - ii. Members suggest Highland and/or Rosedale library for event.
- V. Historic Site in Journalism Update
- a. From Aeikens: On Sunday, Sept. 7, SPJ's national board of directors approved the MN Pro Chapter's application to make Hubbard Broadcasting a Historic Site in Journalism. A plaque will be presented on June 20, 2009 when the SPJ executive board is in MSP for a meeting.
- VI. Treasurer's Report (Dave Beal)
- a. Our accounts show a balance of \$31,239 -- \$13,329 in checking and \$18,000 in CDs -- as of the close of business 9/08/08.
  - b. Significant expenses coming up:
    - i. Up to \$2,000 for board members' convention expenses.
    - ii. Up to \$1500 for student chapters' convention expenses.
    - iii. Up to \$1000 in expenses for RNC/policing program
    - iv. Around \$1250 for rebate to Broadcasters' association for expenses of spring regional journalism conference
    - v. ESTIMATED TOTAL: \$5,750
  - c. Significant income expected this fall:
    - i. Around \$600 in local membership rebates from SPJ national.
- VII. Other business by email between meetings:
- a. How to Write a Book Event
    - i. On Sept. 5, a motion was made by Lutz via email to spend up to \$400 for space rental, refreshments and other supplies for the 2008 "How to Write a Book" event.
      - 1. No second offered. No action taken.
  - b. RNC Event
    - i. On Sept. 8, a motion was made by Hughes via email to spend up to \$1,000 for air fare and related expenses for a forum regarding the RNC and interactions between journalists and police.
      - 1. Beal seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by email vote Sept. 9.
    - ii. Kirtley secured the Coffman Memorial Theater for the 9/22/08 RNC event, and the Silha Center, MN Journalism Center and School of Journalism & Mass Communication at the University of MN have come on as sponsors, and will pay for the space.
    - iii. Garrison-Sprenger booked Al Tompkins' flight, for a total cost of \$653.

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Star Tribune.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Garrison-Sprenger, seconded by Bauer.

*Respectfully submitted by Sarah Bauer, secretary  
September 10, 2008*