

Society of Professional Journalists
Minnesota Pro Chapter
Board of Directors Meeting
January 5, 2009

KSTP-TV Offices: St. Paul, MN

Board members present: Nicole Garrison-Sprenger, president; Scott Theisen, president-elect; Dave Beal, treasurer; Sarah Bauer, secretary; Jeff Achen, Alyssa Ford, Art Hughes, Amanda Lutz, Jane Kirtley, Sarah McKenzie, Andy Tellijohn, directors.

- I. Online votes since last meeting:
 - a. On Nov. 11, 2008, Garrison-Sprenger moved to spend \$180 on room rental and up to \$500 on food for the November post-election event at Sweeny's in St. Paul. Kirtley seconded.
 - i. Motion passes with a vote of 6 (yes) to 1 (no), with one abstention.
 - b. On Dec. 4, 2008, Bauer moved to spend up to \$500 on the 2008 holiday party. Garrison-Sprenger seconded.
 - i. Motion passes with a vote of 10 (yes) to 0 (no).
- II. Programming Update (Lutz)
 - a. January Program: reporting on education/in schools, etc.
 - i. Will be held Jan. 26 or 27 (before MNA convention convenes)
 - ii. Lutz will work with programming committee to finalize details of event, and notify membership, etc.
 - b. Possible February event: covering ethnic communities
 - c. Regional – March 27-28
 - i. Bauer asks for volunteers to attend Jan. 17th organizational meeting; Hughes and Lutz volunteer to attend.
 - ii. Need to firm up regional sessions. Responsible for:
 1. MOE Awards luncheon speaker (Garrison-Sprenger has contacted Dave Umhoefer, Pulitzer winner from Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel).
 2. Writing session: Karen Lundegaard volunteered to seek out Star Tribune writing coach.
 3. Politics session: need to firm up – possible topics could be election, recount coverage, etc.
 4. One more session: ideas include freelancing tips, business coverage for general assignment reporters.
 5. Also providing support for: “first job” session and critique room.
 - iii. SPJ Ethics week: national is no longer offering grant money for programming.
 1. Kirtley suggests holding a program despite the fact that national is not doing anything “formal” this year. Possible topics/themes: medical reporting, video news releases in health care coverage, etc.
- III. Treasurer's Report (Beal)
 - a. Despite economic downturn, SPJ has not lost any money; all investments are in CDs.
 - b. Beal is currently working on a 2009-10 budget, and an expense forecast for the remainder of our fiscal year that ends July 31.
 - c. Bauer moves to pay \$190.80 to renew the Web hosting contract, and maintain the SPJ Web site for two more years. Beal seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
 - d. SPJ should look for ways to reduce expenses, be a bit more conservative with expenditures.

- i. Ford volunteers to investigate possible other venues for the Page One Banquet, Beal will present a review of last year's expenses, and Theisen volunteers to look into more affordable Page One trophies.

IV. Page One (Bauer)

- a. The entry form and payment will both be available online this year; entrants also have the option of mailing in entries or payment if necessary.
- b. The call for entries needs to get out by Jan. 9th. Bauer will draft call for entries, Lutz will review mailing lists in email account.
- c. Entry deadline was set for Wednesday, February 18th, 2009. Goal to send entries to judges around March 1st; have results back to MN by April 3rd; and hold the banquet in late May or early June.
- d. Possible speakers for Page One? Hughes agrees to contact Rick Kupchella at KARE-11 to see if it would be feasible to bring in NBC/Meet the Press's David Gregory.

V. Membership survey (Garrison –Sprenger/Bauer)

- a. Nearly 30 people responded
- b. Results will be reviewed by, reported on by Membership committee
- c. New chapters:
 - i. In ND, two women are interested in starting a Fargo chapter. Bauer volunteers to contact Sarah Klaphake (former UMN president) to see if she might also be interested in joining the effort.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on February 23, 2009 at the Pioneer Press.

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

*Respectfully submitted by Sarah Bauer, secretary
January 15, 2009*