



## SPJ Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 11, 2024

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Location:** via Zoom

**Board members:** Laura Downey (President), Chris Thompson (Secretary), Stell Simonton (Treasurer), Jatika Hudson (Vice President), Rahul Bali (At-Large Member), Allison Mawn (Student Representative)

**Other members:** Genelle Williams

- I. Approve May 2024 agenda (Laura)**
  - A. Shared agenda ahead of the meeting; asked members to approve.
- II. Approve April 2024 minutes (Laura)**
  - A. Shared that Chris would send out the meeting minutes for the April meeting for approval and final tweaks.
- III. Treasury Report (Stell)**
  - A. Discussed issues with Renasant Bank's customer service and wait times.
  - B. Suggested switch to a new payment method among concerns about oversight and legal responsibilities.
  - C. All discussed it would be good if two of the SPJ-GA chapter board members have read-only access to bank accounts.
  - D. Discussion regarding limitations of accessing joint bank accounts.
  - E. Discussed financial reports and payment for food and drink that would need to be made to Bridge Boutique for the event space for our partnership AABJ event.
  - F. Discussed financial matters including: expenses and donations for the high school scholarship.
- IV. New business**
  - 1. Budget, scholarship, and membership.**
    - a) Stell discussed budget and fees for upcoming events.
    - b) Chapter will help with contacting membership from the member contact list.
      - (1) Jatika will also reach out to high schools journalism programs and will enlist the board to help.
  - 2. High school journalism program for scholarships.**
    - a) Allison seeks contact information for high schools with journalism programs for scholarship opportunities.
    - b) Allison discusses potential internship opportunities with a group of students.
- V. Old business**
  - 1. Freelance journalism opportunities, advocacy, and social media promotion.**
    - a) Chris updated board on freelance committee opportunities for aspiring journalists.
    - b) Discussed potential collaboration with the Atlanta freelance committee, sharing insights on interest in freelancing opportunities for joint initiatives.
    - c) Plans to follow up with Stacie Overton Johnson to discuss proposed coffee chats and a potential list of journalists who recently moved to Atlanta.
    - d) Shared that Hazel Becker and Stacie from the national SPJ freelance committee will provide lists of potential members for advocacy and networking events.
    - e) All members discussed the ideas of having a workshop about social media, election coverage, and membership for a joint college student event.
- VI. Committee reports**
  - 1. Membership list discrepancies and upcoming events.**
    - a) Rahul told the board that we have some active members show as inactive; once this is resolved, Rahul will work with the national membership team to help resolve inactive list

*Meeting minutes written by Christopher Thompson, SPJ GA Chapter Secretary.*

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- issues.
  - b) Members signed a document in November 2023, despite being listed as active on another list.
  - c) Information was shared about the organization's membership list, including the number of professional and student members and our one lifetime member.
- 2. Venue for upcoming event, potential cost, and member opinions.**
- a) Laura shared that our event with Bridge Boutique is a fundraiser as well. Any guests who shop, 10% of the proceeds goes back to the chapter.
  - b) Laura is still negotiating venue costs with a potential vendor for the July Sip & Share event.
  - c) Genelle is planning a Zoom event and invites others to share their thoughts.
- 3. SPJ-GA future events and fundraising.**
- a) Laura mentioned there is a panel planned for the beginning of August to target college students interested in fashion journalism.
  - b) An email will be sent about the high school scholarship to friends and family to request donations.
  - c) Laura requests help to promote the upcoming Sip & Share event on social media, including reposting the Instagram stories.
  - d) Increased engagement on social media and website since January 2024, with 286% increased newsletter engagement and 584% increase in website views.
  - e) ONA conference panel idea proposals sent to their committee; decision expected in July; Stella will update as an ONA committee member.