



Board Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2017  
Knight Foundation, Miami, FL

President Brandon Benavides called meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

Members present:

Rolando Arrieta, VP Broadcast; Brandon Benavides, President; Gary Cooper, Region 5; Geraldine Cols Azócar, Region 2; Brian De Los Santos, Region 8; Nancy Flores, Secretary; Mekahlo Medina, Ex Officio; Rafael Mejia, Region 1; Alberto Mendoza, Executive Director; Nathan Olivarez-Giles, General At-large Officer; Michelle Rindels, Financial Officer; Blanca Rios, Region 6; Miguel Rosa, Spanish At-Large Officer; Sebastian Vega, Student Representative

Absent: Ed O'Keefe, VP Print; Nathan Olivarez-Giles, General At-large Officer; Erik Reyna, Region 3; Joe Ruiz, VP Online (All absent members called in for votes)

Guests: BA Snyder of Veritas PR

Geraldine Cols Azócar made a motion to go into executive session. She motioned to end executive session at 10:37 a.m.

-Communication Strategy

BA Snyder presented new NAHJ social media and content strategies including monthly Twitter and Instagram Chats, Instagram takeovers, NAHJ Live events and Who Brought Me up campaign every third Monday of the month.

President Brandon Benavides called public call-in meeting to order at noon.

-Approval of Minutes

Paula Machado made a motion to approve minutes from December 2016 and February 2017 meetings. Motion passed.

-Executive Director Report

Executive Director Alberto Mendoza presented updates on scholarships, EIJ, memberships, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda and FedEx grant

-Membership Drive

Geraldine Cols Azócar presented updates on membership drive, which resulted in 841 members



-Creation of Student Chapters

Geraldine Cols Azócar made a motion to approve NAHJ Wichita as a student chapter. Motion passed.

Paula Machado made a motion to approve NAHJ UT-Austin as a student chapter. Motion passed.

-Election Chair Appointment

Brandon Benavides appointed Secretary Nancy Flores as chair of the Elections Committee

-2017 Convention Update

EIJ Convention Chair Robert Hernandez presented updates on convention. He and Rolando Arrieta were reviewing more than a hundred proposals. Brown Out Report will be announced at convention. Noemi Lujan, co-chair of Gala and ñ Awards Luncheon were identifying sponsors for event. Maryhelen Campa, chair of the ñ Awards judging requested board members help recruit more print and radio judges. Judging will be in May or June.

-Hall of Fame Chair Appointments

Brandon Benavides appointed Nathan Olivarez-Giles and Erik Reyna as co-chairs.

-Executive Session

Paula Machado made a motion to go into executive session at 2 p.m. She motioned to end executive session at 2:37 p.m.

-Central Florida Chapter

Paula Machado made a motion to put Central Florida Chapter on probation for 30 days. Chapter will be given until May 10 to comply with guidelines and failure to do so will lead to revoke chapter status. Motion passed.

-CCNMA LA Chapter

Brian De Los Santos motioned to allow local chapters to present an award at the national conference. Mekahlo Medina abstained. Motion passed.

-Financial Report

Michelle Rindels made a motion to approve investment policy. Motion passed. Michelle Rindels made a motion to transfer \$50,000 immediately to the scholarship account. Motion passed.

-2020 NABJ and NAHJ MOU

Paula Machado made a motion to empower Executive Director to explore future joint conventions with NABJ. Motion passed.

Geraldine Cols Azócar motioned to adjourn at 4 p.m. Motion passed.