



Feb. 3, 2018
Conference call
noon CST

Board Members present:

Rolando Arrieta, VP Broadcast; Brandon Benavides, President; Octavio Blanco, Region 2, Laura Castañeda, Academic At-Large; Brian De Los Santos, Region 8; Nancy Flores, Secretary; Daniela Ibarra, Student Representative; Paula Machado, Region 4; Alberto Mendoza, Executive Director; Rafael Mejia, Region 1; Dianna Nájuez, Region 7; Javier Palmera, General At-Large Officer; Maria Peña, VP Print; Maclovio Pérez, Region 5; Michelle Rindels, Financial Officer; Blanca Rios, Region 6; Miguel Rosa, Spanish At-Large Officer; Joe Ruiz, VP Online; Rosalba Ruiz, Region 3

Guests: BA Snyder of Veritas PR; May Ortega, New Mexico chapter founder, Conference Chair Pilar Portera and Conference Programming Co-Chair Robert Hernandez

President Brandon Benavides called meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. Blanca Rios motioned to go into Executive Session at 11:09 a.m. and motioned to end executive session at 11:45 a.m.

Benavides called public meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Paula Machado motioned to approve minutes. María Peña seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Executive Director and President's Report

Mendoza reported American Airlines will offer conference attendees a six percent discount when they book through the airline. The NAHJ Facebook Journalism Project Scholarship will provide \$10,000 to five students. Benavides reported objectives before conference will be to update board contract, create a conflict of interest policy, code of conduct and update Chapter Bylaws.

Financial Officer's Report

Financial Officer Michelle Rindels reported:

- Ending 2017 with \$197,108 in the "checking account" (approximately one-fifth of the annual budgeted expenditures)
- Ended year with \$454,221 in investments/money market account (student

initiatives/scholarship fund)

- With \$250,000 from Facebook coming in in December for scholarships over the next five years, net income for 2017 was \$218,334
- Executive committee moved in January to transfer remaining \$28,000 of 2016 budget surplus over to scholarship fund. With that move, internal debt to scholarship fund will be reduced to approximately \$141,424

Rindels motioned to move \$28,413.10 to NAHJ scholarship account to pay back internal loan. Javier Palmera seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Rindels reported the 2018 budget proposal is balanced at \$1,080,000.

Rindels motioned to approve the 2018 budget. Rolando Arrieta seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Puerto Rico Connection and Conference Updates

Puerto Rico Emergency Communications Access and Journalism Initiative fundraiser generated almost \$30,000 for communication equipment, which was delivered to the island following Hurricane María. BA Snyder reported long-term strategy now includes creating task force in newsrooms to work on response guides that can be used in the future. Region 1 Director Rafael Mejía, who traveled to Puerto Rico for the initiative, reported connecting with many journalists and expects about one or two new chapters to be created in Puerto Rico.

Conference programming co-chair Robert Hernandez reported creating rough draft of schedule. Conference will focus on hands-on training with various tracks headed by track leaders.

New Chapters

Octavio Blanco motioned to approve the New England/Boston chapter. Rafael Mejía seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dianna Nández motioned to approve the New Mexico chapter. Rafael Mejía seconded the motion. Motion passed.

María Peña motioned to adjourn. Javier Palmera seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.