

**NAHJ Board Virtual Meeting Minutes for 10/28/2020 @ 7 p.m. EST**

**Location:** Pt 1 <https://youtu.be/AAPTKtR3VaM>, Pt 2 <https://youtu.be/psG0H5SF8zA>

**Present:** Nora Lopez, Julio-Cesar Chavez, Yvette Cabrera, Arelis Hernandez, Keldy Ortiz, Blanca Rios, Jennifer Marcial Ocasio, Jessica Retis, Mc Nelly Torres, Luis Joel Méndez González, Melissa Macaya, Ninnette Sosa Johnny Cordoba, Christy Fajardo

**Not Present:** Elwyn Lopez

**Guests:** Hugo Balta, Alberto Mendoza, Yunuen Bonaparte, Yaneth Guillen, Leslie-Anne Frank, B.A. Snyder

**I. MINUTES**

Minutes from both 10/1 (previous board) and 10/7 meetings approved.

**II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Nora advises she would like to develop creative solutions for trust in journalism. She reminds everyone to stay safe and brave during their coverage of the upcoming elections.

**III. FINANCE REPORT (Alberto/Keldy)**

- A. Alberto has secured more than a million dollars in grants.
- B. We are close to filling our \$2M mark budget for income.
- C. NAHJ currently has a net balance of \$525,717.08 and is on track for a lucrative year.

**IV. EXECUTIVE REPORT (Alberto)**

- A. Alberto Mendoza reports we are 12 members away from 3,200. That's the highest membership base in NAHJ history. Breakdown: 124 academic, 246 associate, 211 lifetime, 1725 regular, 893 students.
- B. Renewal Democracy Fund grant, \$200,000
- C. Newly-added White House Correspondent Association scholarship of \$2000
- D. Newly-added 1-year Univision training partnership for mid-career level journalists
- E. Google D & I Initiative focuses on publishers that are working as a mean of catching where discrimination is being placed. 288 applicants. Alberto was a part of the jury. Potential for Palabra.
- F. NAHJ is in early stages of partnering with the CDC for a 2-year-contract. Fellowship-type opportunities.

**V. BOARD VACANCIES**

- A. Need to fill Region 1 - Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands. Region 2 had 3 candidates step up. Will Cruz, Aimee Rodriguez and Jaime Stockwell. Valerie Mia Juarez of Nebraska stepped up for Region 6.

- B. Mc Nelly makes a motion to appoint Jamie Stockwell to Region 2 Director. Jennifer Marcial seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
- C. Blanca moves to appoint Valeri Mia Juarez as Region 6 director. Mc Nelly seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Bylaws committee**- Arelis reports the bylaws committee will reconvene after the first of the year. First item of business will be going over what took place this last year and drafting a series of recommendations. Anyone interested should email [ahernandez@nahj.org](mailto:ahernandez@nahj.org)
- B. **Elections committee** - Melissa reports a meeting was held last Monday, which included the advisory meeting.
  - 1. Positive points include creating electronic way via membership suite, streamlined process, creation of elections hub, creation of advisory committee, and candidate forum.
  - 2. Improvements include: need to form the committee sooner, a survey be done for members, creating an email reflector for privacy, date of record closer to election time, campaigning should be allowed during election week, creating freelance board position
- C. **Hostile Environment Training**- Julio Cesar reports there were 3 sessions. Not as many people as hoped but 58 participated. Hoping to set these up on a rolling basis.
- D. **L.A. Journos** - Christy brings up 2 incidents involving journalists with the LAPD. She asks that we throw our support to these journalists of color. Nora agrees and segues into next point.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Rapid Response Team** – Mc Nelly is the chair. Christy Fajardo, Yvette Cabrera have volunteered. It was also noted that BA serves on committee.
- B. **Student Auxiliary Board proposal** - Luis Joel tables discussion until he gets more input from board members.
- C. **Foreign Policy Magazine**- Mc Nelly was pitched by Foreign Policy Magazine. She says they want to add diversity in their publication. Specifically Latino voices. Proposing to provide members with free webinars. No decision is made but Alberto warns to beware of pitches like these and to be careful in not sharing our member contact list.

- D. **I-Visas** Melissa says a member approached her about I-visas and how a change in policy could impact foreign correspondents. BA reports that we have filed a [comment](#) which has been tweeted.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. Member Michelle Raghavan would like to see non-board members as Rapid Response team
- B. Daniela Ibarra had question about why Region 1 director candidate was not eligible.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Arelis makes a motion to move into executive session. Mc Nelly seconds. Motion passes at 9:33 p.m.
- B. Board returns to open at 9:50 p.m., Nora announces board discussed legal contracts and personnel issues. One actionable item was made.
- C. Arelis makes a motion to make the 2020 conference virtual. Julio Cesar seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

**X. ADJOURN**

Julio Cesar moves to adjourn. Mc Nelly seconds. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.