

NAHJ Board Meeting

Thursday, Feb 4, 2021 06:10PM Eastern Time

Present: Nora Lopez, Julio Cesar Chavez, Yvette Cabrera, Arelis Hernandez, Keldy Ortiz, Blanca Rios- Jennifer Marcial Ocasio, Jessica Retis, Mc Nelly Torres - General at Large, Jamie Stockwell, Melissa Macaya, Elwyn Lopez, Cristy Fajardo, Luis Joel Mendez Gonzalez, Alberto Mendoza

Not Present: Ninette Sosa, Valerie Juarez , Johnny Cordoba

Guests: B.A. Snyder, Yunuen Bonaparte, Leslie Anne Frank

I. MINUTES

- A. Blanca Motions to approve minutes from previous 10/28 meeting. Yvette seconds. The minutes are approved.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Nora highlighted recent events and calls condemning harassment, including the mistreatment of employees of color at CBS. NAHJ, along with leaders from seven journalism organizations are meeting over the next 10 days to address the work environment at CBS.
- B. Feb. 5 is the deadline for our scholarships and fellowships.
- C. Cision, a public relations newswire service, [ranked Palabra no. 2](#) for the 10 must-read Hispanic news sites covering the U.S. and Latin America.
- D. Upcoming membership board meetings are scheduled for Sat.4/24 @ 12 p.m. Eastern & Sat.7/17 @ 12 p.m. Eastern.

III. BUDGET APPROVAL

- A. Keldy recapped 2020. NAHJ did well in terms of income. Grossed \$1.7 M as well as \$854K in grants. We exceeded our registration goal by \$25K.
- B. Alberto reviewed the budget. He says it was a successful budget year overall considering the pandemic. We surpassed \$1.5M, currently at \$1.7M, but the year is not over. He mentioned the board has reviewed the budget.
- C. Keldy motions to approve the budget. Julio seconded the motion. Budget approved unanimously

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CONFERENCE REPORT

- A. Alberto says we are officially in convention/conference mode. It will be held virtually as previously announced on July 12-17.
- B. Convention website created by Veritas team is live. www.nahj2021.org
- C. Registration begins Feb. 16.
- D. New this year is a pre-conference training beginning June 12. It includes two to four weeks of training leading up to the conference. Members can purchase a training pass or a full-access pass to the conference.
- E. NAHJ has partnered with NABJ for 2022, 2024, and 2026. We will host the conference independently during the other years.
- F. Alberto announced there will be a virtual component in all conferences moving forward so that more members can access without having to incur the cost of travel or hotel.

- G. Non-conference highlights include another workshop for journalists covering the financial beat, a workshop for women journalists on negotiating salaries by Funda Medios will be held in March. And after a successful year with Google, specifically for Spanish-language media journalists, we are now on track for future training.
- H. Alberto had a funder meeting with other organizations like NABJ and AAJA. There's a strong commitment to continue working together. The thought is not to have another Unity, but to collaborate in the spirit of Unity.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Nora announced we still have a vacancy for Region 1 Director which represents Puerto Rico. Nora will turn her attention to that and review those who have expressed interest.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Jessica Retis sent emails asking for volunteers to work with her in an Academic Task Force. The following NAHJ academic members replied to the invitation: Amara Aguilar, Alejandro Alvarado, Zita Arocha, Laura Castañeda, Lourdes Cueva Chacón, Teresa Ponte, Federico Subervi, Mercedes Vigón. Four committees were formed: 1) Research, 2) Training, workshops & conference 3) Student-Professor Liaison 4) Communications. The group has worked on various initiatives. They will present their planning at the first all-academic members meeting to be held on Feb.19 at 11am via zoom.
- B. Luis Joel reviewed several new student initiatives. He re-established the student Facebook group which serves as a platform for students to share their events. It also keeps them up to date with new scholarships and fellowship opportunities. A meet-and-greet event was held in December to share opinions and needs in an informal way. He organized a NAHJ students match, which helped over 60 students get their essays edited for NAHJ Next Generation Initiatives. The NAHJ students committee met last week.
- C. Julio says he was contacted by Poynter. They're holding a training for local or national broadcast producers. The cost is normally \$500 but the price is cut in half for members of color. Application deadline is either Feb. 8 or 9.
- D. Elwyn of Region 4 reports Atlanta kicked off its third student mentorship program and has paired four journalism students nominated by their professors with journalists from CNN and other organizations for the entirety of a semester. This month, the chapter will hold a FOIA and Open Records Request workshop. Central Florida is holding a workshop on industry-related tips. It has also scheduled one for March, specific to Morning TV. The chapter will also hold a major fundraiser, and is working to sponsor some registration fees for the National Convention. UNC has an upcoming event hosted by Maria Hinojosa this month.
- E. Cristy of Region 8 says the LA chapter has been very active. They held a recent workshop on career tips and paired more than 100 people with mentors. The LA chapter is in the process of sending a letter to newsrooms to see how they're doing on diversity. They're also having an upcoming coronavirus workshop that will allow journalists to ask what agencies are doing. They are also starting a membership drive.

- F. Melissa of Region 3 says both the DC and Philly chapter continue to host events virtually. They're holding an upcoming roundtable with the new media team of the Biden Administration.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Francisco Vara Orta is a trainer with IRE and longtime member of NAHJ. He appreciates NAHJ using its platform to “powerfully and wisely to call out racism and xenophobia.” He also wanted to share the next national data journalism conference, NICAR is next month.
<https://www.ire.org/training/fellowships-and-scholarships/>

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Yvette motions to move to executive session to discuss personnel issues. Mc Nelly seconded. The motion passed at 7:09 p.m.

IX. ADJOURN

- A. Nora re-announced the April and July meetings. Also reminded the board that the virtual retreat will be held on Feb. 20/21 beginning at 11a, eastern.
- B. Board returned from executive session at 8:20 p.m. Julio motioned to adjourn. Arelis seconded. The meeting ended at 8:23 p.m.