

## **National Board & Membership Meeting Agenda**

Saturday, July 17, 2021

1:30 p.m. ET/10:30 a.m. PT

**Present:** Nora Lopez, Yvette Cabrera, Arelis Hernandez, Keldy Ortiz, Blanca Rios, Mc Nelly Torres, Jessica Retis, Valerie Mia Juare, Johnny Cordoba, Melissa Macaya

**Not present:** Julio Cesar, Jennifer Marcial Ocasio, Jamie Stockwell, Elwyn Lopez, Ninnette Sosa, Cristy Fajardo, Luis Joel Mendez Gonzalez

**Guests:** Zita Arocha, Yunuen Bonaparte, BA Snyder, Leslie-Anne and Yaneth

### **I. Call to Order**

### **II. Roll Call**

**III. Minutes** -Yvette motioned to approve the last meeting's minutes. Arelis seconded. The minutes approved.

### **IV. President's Report -- Nora Lopez**

#### **a. Membership**

Nora welcomes everyone to the board/membership meeting. We are at 4,336 members. The organization has grown by over 1,000 members in one year.

#### **Breakdown of Members**

- Regular 2,443
- Students 1044
- Academic 247
- Associate 392
- Lifetime 220

#### **b. Executive Director Search Update**

NAHJ has hired the Juarez Group to help in the search for a new ED. It's led by Gloria Juarez. Job will be posted in the next week or so. Board committee will interview candidates. no bylaws.

#### **c. Black Latinos Task Force**

Cristina Silva organized a meeting for next 7/20. Yvonne Latty will chair the group. It's still in the early stages, members are welcome to participate.

### **V. Committee/Board reports**

**a. Strategic Planning/Rapid Response -- Yvette Cabrera**

Since we have a board that changes over every year. We want to create a plan and set goals to accomplish over the next five years and lay out steps to achieve those goals. Between now and when the board gathers for a retreat the committee wants to hear from all members. Committee wants to work with a consultant to try and lay out this plan before the end of Nora's term. At the suggestion of a member we will create a living document so members can contribute.

**Rapid Response team** - This is how we advocate on behalf of our members. Mc Nelly is the chair along with members Jennifer Marcial, Cristy, Yvette and Julio Cesar.

**RRT actions**

- Worked with the San Antonio Association of Hispanic Journalists calling on anchor teams to be more diverse
- Called on Arizona Republic and Gannett to address pay inequities and lack of opportunities in the newsroom.
- Spoke out on behalf of journalists being attacked in Nicaragua
- Lack of diversity as part of a fellowship at Arizona State University reporting on COVID
- We also spoke out on behalf of a reporter from Arizona - Leon Felipe Gonzalez Cortez who had his phone taken away. Court case is being heard this month.
- We're concerned with the attacks of journalists in Los Angeles and California and across the country. Met with LAPD, we learned journalism organizations were also concerned with this issue and created a coalition. There is now legislation to protect journalists. Law has overcome several hurdles - still needs approval from the Governor.
- If you have a local issue - please reach out so that we can help

**b. Investigative Task force -- Mc Nelly Torres**

Created at the beginning of the year. There are three subcommittees that include academics, investigative/data and management.

We've been approached by other groups. We will include guests that want to collaborate with NAHJ. The task force needs more people. Looking to be doing things together over the next few months.

**c. Elections -- Julio-Cesar Chavez**

(not present)

**d. Financials -- Keldy Ortiz**

Keldy working on a financial letter to send to members

**VI. Executive Director Report -- Zita Arocha**

**a. 2021 Conference**

Conference had over 1,200 attendees which is comparable with years past. There were 40 exhibitors, 26 media sponsors. We are in the middle of an audit which will be out possibly in September. That's when we will have a better understanding of our financials.

**b. Palabra leadership update**

Valeria Fernandez has been named interim managing editor through the end of December. Zita is working with Yvette to draft a job description for the managing editor of Palabra.

**c. Misc.**

Zita is working with staff and accountant to track down all of our grants. We're making good progress. Google Trending Initiative is going strong. For the Narrative project, Yaneth was charged with making that happen as well as Yunuen. Yunuen has agreed to be with us on contract through the end of the year. Has done a terrific job and we are so happy to have her with us. Zita will assist strategic planning and upcoming board meeting.

**VII. Regional Director reports**

**a. Jessica - Academic report** -The task force is gaining more academic members. They include not only four year colleges as well as community colleges and high school journalism teachers. A communications newsletter was started. The relationship has strengthened with student members. We want to work with journalists to become adjunct professors. And we are still working.

**b. Region 3 - Melissa Macaya**

This is Melissa's second year as Region 3 director, she's running again and asked members to vote. There are 2 professional chapters and 3 student chapters in Region 3. 418 total members.

-D.C. has 200 members. They've held chapter board meetings, elections, but had to postpone job fair. Finances are in good standing. Continue to grow and reestablish connections with White House, Supreme Court and Congress. Continue with Charlie Erikson scholarship which is given four times a year and pairs students with a mentor. The chapter's big fundraiser, Noche de Periodistas is coming up. It helps raise funds for the scholarship. On Monday a membership meeting will be held with Sen. Chris Van Hollen.

-**Philly** just started in January 2020 and has hit the ground running. New president is Miguel Martinez Valle. There are 47 members. Very active board. First in person event since the pandemic started early this month in July. They've held a Vaccine PSA, covid vaccine panels, socials, and networking events.

-**Virginia Tech** - established in April. Event with DC chapter to connect with students and give them advice. They're getting ready for the school year and want to connect with students on campus, especially engineering students.

-**American University** - 50 active students. A little less active during pandemic.

-**University of Maryland**- used to be active

-DC chapter Student outreach committee looking to help support the two DC student chapters to help them be active, grow and also invite them to participate and attend chapter events.

Melissa has a goal of possibly establishing a chapter in Baltimore this year. She wants to make sure we're supporting our student chapters. We really want to make sure that we remind our members whose memberships have lapsed. Management is so important.

c. **Region 4 & 5** - Current board members Elwyn Lopez and Ninnette Sosa are transitioning out so if you want to run please step up.

d. **Region 6- Valerie Juarez**

Blanca read Valerie's report on her behalf.

"Right now in Region six we have 372 active members making up 8% of the total NAHJ membership.

We've been excited since the recent launch of our two new chapters Greater Cleveland and Wisconsin to hit the ground running and begin to develop these chapters.

Since our last board meeting, I've met with Roselyn Muniz the President of the Greater Cleveland chapter a couple times via Zoom to discuss ideas and steps to continue moving forward.

We've had a virtual meeting inviting all new chapter members to introduce themselves and discuss what we would like to accomplish and gain from the area chapter.

Board members for the chapter have been selected and look forward to working together with them. NAHJ Greater Cleveland Association can be found on social media as well. (Facebook)

In Wisconsin, where I'm based I've had the pleasure of meeting more of our chapter members discussing what change we'd like to see and what we'd like to work on. Was able to recently meet in-person both the President and Vice President of the chapter.

You can go to [nahjwisconsin.org](http://nahjwisconsin.org) to take a look at the new site recently launched by the chapter. Over the last week, their chapter board met and announced this site. NAHJ Wisconsin is also on other social media platforms.

Now as for the NAHJ Chicago Chapter, currently there is a \$5,000 scholarship opportunity for one journalism student. It's only open to students attending Illinois colleges or Universities and Illinois residents. The deadline for students to apply will be this Thursday 7/21.

Student chapters from DePaul and Northwestern University as they are part of this region are eligible to apply.

The NAHJ Chicago chapter also has a new board member we're excited to welcome and work with.

If re-elected, I'm excited to continue to work together with members in my region. From future professional development opportunities to working together towards more Latino news coverage in the midwest.

Everyone has been working hard and I'm proud of all the work all the members in my region have done."

**e. Region 7-Johnny Cordoba**

This is a big region yet it doesn't have a huge amount of members. Population is spread out. It's been very quiet, issues that have come up have been addressed by the Rapid Response Team. Nothing new to report. Everything is moving along with the biggest chapters, which are ALMA and ASU. There hasn't been any activity since the last report 2 months ago. Johnny is looking forward to being reelected.

**f. Region 7-Johnny Cordoba - not present**

**g. Student Rep- Luis Joel**

h. Not present because he was attending the SPJ Student Leadership Institute. Nora mentioned how he's been "on fire and has proven that our future is secure with young journalists like him. He's so thoughtful, so talented and super engaged with his constituents." Leslie Anne also spoke up for Luis Jel says he's pushed a lot this year and got a lot done including creating a student committee to give feedback to the board. He has "lots of energy, and like so many of our student board reps has gone on to do amazing things."

**i. VP of Print - Arelis**

Arelis explained how there's a lot of behind the scenes going on. She's looking forward to resurrecting the bylaws and membership initiatives and morphing the two together. That include the creation of a policy guide book. "The bylaws are very difficult to change as we learned last year." Arelis is looking to entertain ideas on ways we can restructure NAHJ in a way that's practical. There aren't really great definitions for positions on the board and we've discovered some issues where we have no precedent to guide us. Arelis is looking to tackle all this in the fall.

**VIII. Old Business -nothing to report.**

**IX. New Business** - nothing to report

**X. Membership Meeting Begins** - public comment

XI.

**XII. Executive session**

-Yvette motions to move to Executive Session. Mc Nelly seconds. The board moves into executive session at 3:10 p.m. Eastern.

-Arelis moves to leave executive session, Yvette seconds. The Board returns to regular session at 4 p.m. Eastern.

**XIII. Adjourn**

Arelis moves to adjourn, Mc Nelly seconds. Board adjourns at 4:07p.m.