

## **National Association of Hispanic Journalists**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Saturday, January 14, 2023**

9 a.m. PST to 10 a.m. PST

11:15 a.m. CST to Noon CST

Noon EST to 1 p.m. EST

**Present:** Yvette Cabrera, Arelis Hernandez, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mc Nelly Torres, Marilyn Garateix, Blanca Rios, Adriana Chavira, Dunia Elvir, Luis Joel Méndez González, David Cordero Mercado, Melissa Macaya, Elwyn Lopez, Ninette Sosa, Valerie Mia Juarez, Johnny Cordoba, Cristy Fajardo

**Not present:** Jamie Stockwell, Brenda Elizondo

**Guests:** David Peña, Nora Lopez, Jermaine Smith, J. R. Gonzalez

#### **I. Open Public Session**

Yvette Cabrera, national president, welcomes national board members, staff and members present.

- A. Yvette announced NAHJ will be celebrating the one-year anniversary of the hiring of executive director David Pena.
- B. Yvette noted several highlights including the launching of the freelancer map, the pledge to update NAHJ bylaws and create a policy handbook, diversity survey to better advocate on behalf of members, the work being done to create the Latina Leadership Academy and the celebration of NAHJ's 40th anniversary next year.
- C. Yvette also mentioned the upcoming scholarship workshop by the Afro Latino Task force and the return of the D.C. chapter's job fair following a three-year pandemic hiatus.
- D. Yvette reminded members of the Jan. 23rd deadline to submit a workshop proposal for the upcoming conference in Miami,

#### **II. Roll Call**

Blanca Rios, national secretary, conducted the roll call.

#### **III. Minutes Approval**

- A. Johnny Cordoba, region 8 director, moved to approve the Dec. 3, 2022 meeting minutes.
- B. Ninnette Sosa, region 5 director seconded. The motion passed.

#### **IV. Association Update**

- A. David Peña Jr., Executive Director, provided organization update. See attachment for full report.

**V. Technical Interruption**

At about 9:25 a.m. Yvette announced that the zoom link would be expiring, so the meeting was closed and members relinked with new information. Meeting continued at 9:42 a.m.

**VI. Regional Director Alternates**

Yvette announced the process of selecting regional director alternates. Alternates were discussed for Region 3, 5, 6 and 8. The rest will be discussed at the next meeting.

- A. Arelis Hernandez, vp of print, moved to select Silvia Foster-Frau as the new region 3 alternate, pending the vetting approval process. Julio-Cesar, vp of broadcast, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Blanca moved to select Nora Lopez, ex-officio, as region 5 alternate. Johnny seconded. 13 members voted yes. 3 members, Mc Nelly, Marilyn and Luis Joel abstained. The motion passed.
- C. Valerie Mia Juarez, current region 6 director, moved to approve Rosa Morales, founding member and former Region 6 director, as the Region 6 alternate pending the vetting and approval process. Johnny seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. Cristy Farjardo, current region 8 director moved to approve Steve Soliz, former General at Large member, as region 8 alternate pending vetting and approval process. 16 members voted yet, 1 member, Luis Joel, voted no. The motion passed.

**VII. Budget Update**

- A. Marilyn Garateix, Financial Officer presented the board's proposed budget for 2023 See attachment for details.
  - 1. There was post-discussion on the Ruben Salazar scholarship. Yvette reminded members that while it's unfunded we can campaign for funding. Yvette noted her connections with the Salazar family and the LA Times.
  - 2. David Pena said the deadline to fund this year's scholarships is in 30 days. But the organization has a full year to work on the campaigning of funds.

**VIII. Public Questions & Comments**

- A. Rebecca Aguilar, former NAHJ vp of online and current SPJ president, commented on Marilyn's financial report, saying it's the best she's ever heard from NAHJ. Rebecca recommended a social media push for the Ruben Salazar scholarship. She suggested reaching out to lifetime members to throw in a few dollars.

Rebecca also inquired about the Soledad O'Brien's scholarship and volunteered to reach out to her since she is a friend of hers.

- B. No further public comment.

#### **IX. Convention Programming Deadline**

Mc Nelly Torres, national vice president of online gave an update on this year's convention programming.

- A. Deadline to submit a proposal is Jan. 23rd at midnight Pacific time. McNelly stressed that people plan ahead of time and get ideas in.
- B. She mentioned David Cordero Mercado, region 1 director, is also on the committee. And that the Co-chair of programming is Brandon Lopez.
- C. David clarified that experts can be non-journalists or from outside of the organization.

#### **X. Bylaws Update**

Arelis Hernandez, national vice president of print gave the bylaws update. Arelis, mentioned the board discussed bylaws during a December retreat in Dallas where the board came up with ideas on how the bylaws revision will look.

- A. A bylaws task force made up of past president Brandon Lopez, past academic advisor Robert Hernandez and others will look specifically at membership categories.
- B. Yvette said the board will have another retreat to discuss the bylaws further just like we did for the strategic plan.

#### **XI. Freelancer Map Update**

Julio-Cesar Chavez, national vice president of broadcast, updated the freelance map project which will be funded by Chan-Zuckerberg grants for the first year of the project.

- A. Julio-Cesar said we are looking for a new programmer since the original programmer is no longer available. Job posting is live on Upwork: <https://www.upwork.com/jobs/~01a638dd9f0416421b>
- B. The freelance map project is a visually-plotted database showing freelancers available to hire across the country, with profile cards showing what skills each reporter has.
- C. Julio-Cesar discussed a timeline that includes: 1) hiring a programmer, 2) developing website, 3) freelance committee will be alpha testers during development, 4) beta testers will be NAHJ members and some news desks selected by Exec Director, 5) full launch can hopefully be scheduled to target election coverage.

**XII. New Business**

- A. Mc Nelly alerted the board that the lgbtq+ community is concerned about having the conference in Florida. She would like to update the anti-harassment policy to make it more robust and she has been working on that with other members. And requests it be displayed at the conference. She also wants us to make known how we are going to handle any complaints in the future because we don't have a set process that details steps taken after a complaint is filed and where to file complaints. Yvette acknowledged and said we are working on it.
  
- B. Next regular board meeting is April 15.

**XIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.