

**National Association of Hispanic Journalists  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Trade Room of InterContinental Hotel  
Miami, Florida  
Sunday, July 16, 2023  
9 a.m. EST**

**Present:** Yvette Cabrera, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mc Nelly Torres, Marilyn Garateix, Blanca Rios Dunia Elvir, Luis Joel Mendez Gonzalez, Adriana Chavira, David Cordero Mercado, Sarah Betancourt, Melissa Macaya, Samantha Rivera, Nancy Preyor-Johnson Diana Gutierrez, Johnny Córdoba, Cristy Fajardo

**Not present:** Arelis Hernandez, Dunia Elvir

**Guests:** Nora Lopez, Yaneth Guillen, Leslie-Anne Frank, Yunuen Bonaparte, Ivan Briones, Pepe Xicohténcatl, Mariana Flores and Daniel Morales, Damia Bonmati, Rita Garza

**I. Call to Order**

President Yvette Cabrera, thanked staff members including Interim Chief Operating Officer Yaneth Guillen, Yunuen Bonaparte and Leslie-Anne Frank for their hard work with a gift of appreciation.

**II. Roll Call**

Secretary Blanca Rios

**III. Approval of Minutes**

- A. Blanca moved to approve the minutes for the quarterly July 12, 2023 meeting. General at Large Officer Luis Joel Mendez Gonzalez seconded the motion. Region 4 Director Samantha Rivera, Region 5 Director Nancy Preyor-Johnson, Region 7 Director Johnny Cordoba, Region 8 Director Cristy Fajardo all abstained because they were absent from that meeting. The motion passed by a voice vote.

#### **IV. 40th Anniversary Advisory Group**

- A. Yvette announced she would like to create a working group to tackle the convention details. That includes telling the story of NAHJ. Yvette has asked former presidents to serve on the convention advisory board. Input and details will be shared on a Google doc.

#### **V. Committees**

- A. Yvette asked the board to take a couple of weeks to review the committee list. She plans to have a discussion during our August 5 meeting on which committees to keep or sunset.

#### **VI. Bylaws Task Force update**

- A. Vice President of Broadcast Julio-Cesar Chavez provided an update.
- B. He said the entire bylaws rest on the membership categories. The priority is that there's a significant group of disenfranchised members. Julio said phase one is about 50% complete. That includes regular membership and academic membership.
- C. The next step is enfranchising the retired members. The remaining 50% should be rather quick. Once that is complete, recommendations will be assembled and presented by the membership taskforce to the board for discussion, debate, and feedback. The board will then send recommendations back to the Membership Taskforce to be finalized. Once recommendations are finalized they will be presented to the board for final approval. Julio Cesar said the task force will speak with governance attorneys in D.C.
- D. Another item the task force is looking at is lowering the number of nominations student officers need for elections.
- E. Having chapter leaders mirror national bylaws was also discussed.

#### **VII. Executive Session**

- A. Mc Nelly made a motion to move into Executive Session for personnel matters. Julio Cesar seconded the motion.
- B. The board entered executive session at 10:21 a.m.
- C. Julio Cesar motioned to move out of executive session. Mc Nelly seconded the motion.
- D. Time we entered public session
- E. No action was taken during the executive session.

#### **VIII. Public Question & Comments**

- A. Strategic consultant Rita Garza thanked everyone who took the time to meet with her. She said she plans to outline recommendations on how to strengthen communication soon.

**IX. New business**

- A. Elections Chair Nora Lopez reported that only 87 people voted in this year's election.
- B. Several suggestions were made to help with poor voter turnout.
- C. Rita suggested taking the discussion offline.
- D. Region 1 Director David Cordero Mercado asked about convention feedback. Ivan said an email will be sent out.
- E. Yvette asked new regional directors to seek alternates for their respective positions. Once those alternates are vetted they can be appointed by the board.
- F. Luis Joel thanked everyone for their support of the LGBTQ advisory board.
- G. Mc Nelly thanked everyone who stepped up on the convention programming.
- H. Julio Cesar moved to designate Nora Lopez to continue as ex-officio president. Cristy Fajardo seconded the motion. In discussion, Nora said she would step down as Region 5 alternate. The motion passed via a roll-call vote.
- I. Next regular board meeting date: August 5, 2023 9 a.m. EST via zoom
- J. New Student Rep - Eduardo Franco introduced himself.

**X. Adjournment**

- A. Meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.