

National Association of Hispanic Journalists
Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Saturday, August 5, 2023
3:30 p.m. ET

Present: Yvette Cabrera, Julio Cesar Chavez, Arelis Hernandez, 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

Not present: Johnny Córdoba, Cristy Fajardo,

Guests: Nora Lopez, Yaneth Guillen, Leslie-Anne Frank, Yunuen Bonaparte, Ivan Briones

I. Call to Order

- A. President Yvette Cabrera called meeting 3:34 p.m. ET

II. Roll Call

- A. Secretary Blanca Rios conducted the roll call.

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. Blanca Approval of the minutes for July 16, 2023 board meeting. Region 6 Director Diana Gutierrez seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote.

IV. Welcome

- A. Yvette publicly thanked NAHJ staff and board members for their work at this year's conference in Miami.
- B. Yvette said we are in the process of crunching the numbers and invoices in order to present a formal report to the board on how the organization performed financially.
- C. We are also collecting conference feedback from the members.

V. Executive Session

- A. Yvette announced that the board needed to move into Executive Session to discuss contract, personnel matters and the audit.
- B. Member Joahna Hernandez voiced her concern about going into Executive Session before the public questions and comments section.
- C. Yvette reassured her that we would notify members of our return to Public Session via tweet.
- D. Region 2 Director Sarah Betancourt motioned to move into Executive Session. Region 4 Director Nancy Martinez seconded the motion. The motion passed via voice vote.
- E. Mc Nelly moved to return to public session at 5:25 p.m. Arelis seconded. The motion passed.

VI. Audit and Financial Update

- A. Financial Officer Marilyn Garateix presented the audit and said it would be made available online.
- B. Marilyn Garateix made a motion to accept the audit based on the recommendation of the executive committee for the year 2022. Arelis seconded the motion. Motion passed as roll vote.
- C. Marilyn moved to allocate an additional \$25,000 to the payroll. Mc Nelly seconded the motion. Motion passed via roll call vote.
- D. Julio-Cesar explained that our grant process is robust but in order to help staff focus on other items we need to explore hiring someone.
- E. Julio-Cesar moved to allocate \$50k to fund and explore the hiring of a grant management service for the NAHJ. Arelis seconded the motion. Marilyn abstained. Motion passed via voice vote.
- F. Marilyn estimates the conference generated \$1.5 million roughly. She said we still have a couple of pending sponsors including Fox. She hopes to get that wrapped up by next week.
- G. As far as expenses, Marilyn said we are still going through invoices. We are double checking and triple checking and don't want to leave anybody out. Expenses should be under \$900,000.
- H. Marilyn will be preparing a report including investment policies and scholarship recommendations. Marilyn said that report will be presented to the board on her way out.
- I. Marilyn announced she is officially resigning as financial officer for health reasons. She explained that as many people know she suffers from Parkinson's Disease. She promised to help with the transition. Marilyn said she feels comfortable now that NAHJ is a new era of transparency.
- J. Yvette noted what an outstanding job Marilyn did as financial officer. And noted how much the board appreciates all her efforts. Yvette pledged to Marilyn and everyone to keep and have policies in place that reflect all the hard work Marilyn has done.
- K. Mc Nelly thanked Marilyn on behalf of NAHJ and those who voted for her.
- L. Luis Joel said it was an honor to work with Marilyn.

- M. Julio Cesar moved to appoint Marilyn as our ex-officio financial officer. Adriana seconded. Motion passed via voice vote.
- N. Yvette asked anyone interested in filling the position of financial officer to please send her their resume and letter of interest by next Saturday, Aug. 12.

VII. Public Question & Comments

- A. Member Johanna Hernandez first of all thanked Marilyn for serving as Financial officer. Second, she said she felt disrespected by having executive session right away. She said members were made to wait 2 hours to get to this point. She complained about Florida venue choice. She is wondering how money was lost because we couldn't register on site. Florida couldn't be changed but, we now have two pending contracts due to NABJ in Chicago and conference in LA..
- B. Joanna followed up with concern for space in LA. Yaneth says that the size of the hotel is similar to Miami, but that we are working diligently to address concerns about space.
- C. Joanna asked if we could reveal the space. Communications Director Ivan Briones said we will wait till September 1 to discourage any calls to the hotel.
- D. Leslie-Anne Frank asked about figures regarding a budget for Latino Reporter. Yvette said we'll have a better idea for December when we work on the budget with our new financial officer.

VIII. New business

- A. Next board meeting date: September 9, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. PT/2:30 p.m. Central/3:30 p.m. ET via zoom

IX. Adjournment

- A. Yvette adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m. ET