

**National Association of Hispanic Journalists
Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Saturday, May 4, 2024
12:30 p.m. PST/2:30 Central/3:30 p.m. EST**

Present: Yvette Cabrera, Geraldine Cols Azocar, Jaime Cardenas, Adriana Chavira ,Dunia Elvir, Luis Joel Méndez González , Melissa Macaya, Samantha Rivera, Johnny Cordoba, Cristy Farjardo

Not present: Arelis Hernandez, Julio Cesar Chavez, David Cordoba, Nancy Martinez Preyor-Johnson, Diana Gutierrez.

Guests: Ivan Briones, Yaneth Guillen, Leslie-Anne Frank

Call to Order

President Yvette Cabrera called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. Central.

Roll Call

Secretary Blanca Rios conducted the roll call.

I. Welcome

- A.** Yvette began the meeting by acknowledging our student representative Edward Franco who worked in partnership with Academic Officer Adriana Chavira to craft a statement on behalf of student journalists covering pro-Palestinian demonstrations at universities across the country. The statement not only condemned the treatment of student reporters but also shared a list of resources.
- B.** Yvette also shared that NAHJ was one of more than 40 groups to call on authorities to drop charges against journalist Carlos Sanchez who was arrested while covering protests at the University of Texas at Austin.
- C.** The call was spearheaded by SPJ President Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins. Yvette hopes that future boards will continue to collectively work with other journalism organizations.

II. Approval of Minutes

- A.** Blanca called to approve the minutes for the March 23, 2024 board meeting. Vice President of Online Jaime Cardenas seconded the motion. Luis Joel abstained due to absence. The motion passed via voice vote.

III. Farewell to Leslie-Anne Frank

- A.** Yvette thanked Director of Next Generation Initiatives Leslie Anne who after 11 years with NAHJ has stepped down for a new position as Director at the Center for Journalism & Democracy at Howard University
- B.** Yvette opened up the meeting to members who wanted to thank or share a memory.
- C.** Leslie-Anne thanked members and acknowledged the former student reps on the call. She stressed that she hopes our paths cross as she will continue cheering NAHJ's success. She's not gone yet. She'll see us at the conference in July.
- D.** Yvette shared that the board collected a fund to give Leslie-Anne as a small token of our appreciation.

IV. Business Task Force

- A.** NAHJ member and Senior Editor at Forbes Jeff Kauflin proposed the creation of an NAHJ Business Task force. He noted Hispanic journalists make up 7 percent of all business journalists despite making up 19 percent of the population.
- B.** Jeff said there are two main goals of the task force. Inspired more people to consider careers in business journalism and supporting hispanic business journalists with training, resources and community.
- C.** Joel Moreno is the co-chair.
- D.** They had their first unofficial event at the Wall Street Journal with over 20 people participating.
- E.** General at Large Officer Luis Joel Méndez González recommending they add a female co-chair.
- F.** Luis Joel moved to create the Business Task Force. Region 8 Director Cristy Fajardo seconded . The motion passed via voice vote.

V. Executive Director Report

- A.** Executive Director Yaneth Guillen-Diaz presented the organization update.
 - 1. Conference**
600 people registered for the conference.

Hardship application for members who have lost their jobs in the last year is now open.

Yaneth recognized conference co-chairs David Cordero and Robert Hernandez who have helped pack the conference with training programs.

2. Organization

NAHJ has reached 60% of the budgeted goal.

45% of the \$250,000 fundraising campaign goal has been met.

Hall of Fame application deadline is May 10

Over 3,600 active members.

NAHJ Instagram account has surpassed 8,000

Yaneth announced the hiring of Development Director Diana Maltez.

Palabra received a non-restrictive grant of \$50,000 from Venture Media

3. Trainings

The next Behind the scenes newsroom series will be led by by ABC and ESPN on Tuesday May 14, 2024

Google news initiative. Next stop in Atlanta

VI. Mid-Year Budget review

- A. Financial Officer Geraldine Cols Azocar lost her voice so Yaneth read the following report on her behalf.

*“We are on track on most line items in our budget both in income and expenses
Convention: Yaneth and the staff have been working very hard on the convention. And that shows in our actuals, by the end of March, we had already secured 27% of the revenue. Not a lot of expenses at this stage for the convention, but we will start seeing those as we get closer and of course during the month of July. “*

- B. Yaneth reminded the board that NAHJ has two UBS accounts. One has over \$1 million and the other over half a million dollars.
- C. Yaneth also said she’s excited that NAHJ is in such a strong position.

VII. Elections update

- A. Elections committee chair Blanca Rios gave an update on this year’s elections
 - 1. Landing page is now up and running.
 - 2. Monday, May 6 is our official call for nominations.

3. The elections page has everything you need to know including a timeline that falls in line with our bylaws.
4. As a reminder this election includes the executive board, general at large, academic at large and spanish at large, and student rep. Regional directors are next year.
5. Information meeting will be held on May 15 via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. Central

VIII. Region 7 Director Alternate

- A. Region 7 Director Johnny Cordoba introduced his candidate for alternate Region 7 Director. Sebastian Carillo who is on the call, currently works at Univision Arizona. He's worked in Quito, Miami, Salt Lake City Utah and now in Arizona.
- B. Sebastian introduced himself to the board. He is from Ecuador and has been working in journalism for over 18 years. He's been in the U.S. for five years, something he says he sees as a strength in helping recruit more members from the region.
- C. Johnny moved to appoint Sebastian as Region 7 Director. Jaime seconded. The motion passed via voice vote. Sebastian will serve as alternate until Johnny's term is up.

IX. Region 2 Director Appointment

- A. Since we did not have any qualifying candidates Yvette said Vice President of Print Arelis Hernandez reached out to Kiara Alfonseca. Yvette was able to interview Kiara who has a history of working with the Latino Reporter.
- B. Kiara spoke to the board saying she's been a member since 2016. She is the current Vice President of the New York Chapter.
- C. Luis Joel Méndez González moved to appoint Kiara Alfonseca Region 2 Director . Geraldine seconded. Motion passed via voice vote.

X. 40th Anniversary Conference Planning - Vice President, Print Arelis Hernandez

- A. Arelis could not make the meeting. In her absence Yvette summarized the following update.

The Latino Reporter is making a general call out to the NAHJ membership for memorabilia, artifacts (including videos or newspapers) that speak to the history of the student projects. We are particularly interested in video and audio archival content, photos and personal recollections of how the project helped shape your careers.

The NAHJ was the first journalism organization to develop a newsroom training program for college students that became the model for the industry. For nearly 40 years, the program has fostered and facilitated firsts for hundreds of students who became distinguished professionals that have made us NAHJ proud. We are asking all former mentors and students to share their memories and artifacts with us for display as a living exhibit to the legacy of this program and its creators. We are currently collecting these objects for our organizational archives and will be looking to partner with an institution of higher education after the convention to store the archive as part of American Journalism history. But anyone who'd like those objects back, we are willing to take inventory and return those items to personal archives. Much of the current archive is housed in a storage unit in Washington.

Members of the Latino Reporter advisory committee are reaching out so please check your emails for messages from members which include chairperson, Arelis Hernandez. If you're interested in helping plan and design the exhibit but also provide video testimonials for a presentation being planned for the 40th anniversary, please feel free to email ahernandez@nahj.org for details on the next meeting and directions.

XI. LGBTQ Committee Update

- A. Luis Joel reported that the committee is working on finishing and translating the LGBTQ guide to Spanish.
- B. A digital version will be showcased at the conference.
- C. Luis Joel said he's seeking help from an undisclosed non-profit organization to hold a meet and greet at the conference.
- D. Luis Joel applauded Palabra editor Valeria Hernandez for her efforts in the LGBTQ four-part essay Series

XII. Public Question & Comment

- A. None was made

XIII. New Business

- A. Student Rep Edward Franco expressed his gratitude for NAHJ's recent statement condemning violence against student journalists.
 - 1. He said it's been a heavy last couple of weeks for student journalists.
 - 2. Edward said sStudent journalists are the beginning of this industry and that are being limited of their right to Freedom of the Press.
 - 3. He applauded the bilingual journalism safety guide for students to stay safe while reporting.
 - 4. Blanca asked for an update on students' request for access to safety equipment and riot gear.

5. Yvette proposed creating a fund for students to have safety gear on hand.
Perhaps starting with UCLA which first asked for help.

B. Next board meeting is July 9 in person in Hollywood at the conference.

XIV. Adjournment

A. Meeting adjourned at 4:17p.m. central