

**National Association of Hispanic Journalists
Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Saturday March 7, 2026
9am PST / 12p EST**

PRESENT

Dunia Elvir - President
Julio Cesar Chavez Andino - VP of Broadcast
Jaime Cardenas - VP of Online
Nancy Martinez Preyor-Johson VP of Print
Jackie Padilla - Secretary
Carlos Rodriguez- Financial Officer
Pedro PJ Cabrera - Academic at-Large
Harvey Cabassa- Region 1
Samantha Rivera -Region 4
Jessica Elizarraras - Region 5
Blanca Rios -Region 6
Robert Nino - Region 7
Cristy Fajardo - Region 8
Genesis Samayoa-Hidalgo- Officer at large
Nicole Roesler- Student- Student Representative

NOT PRESENT

Kim Haas- Region 2, Karina Cuevas - Region 3, Jose Cancela Spanish at large officer

GUESTS

Yaneth Guillen, Gilbert Bailon, Yuri Cunza

CALL TO ORDER 12:05 AM ET - PRESIDENT DUNIA ELVIR

ROLL CALL

-Jackie Padilla made the motion to approve the minutes from December 2025.

Nancy moved the motion.

Julio seconded the motion.

Blanca, Cristy, Robert abstained noting they weren't in the December meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

-Jackie made the motion for the minutes regarding Regional Directors placed for regions 6, 1, and 2.

Carlos seconded the motion

The minutes passed unanimously.

I. Welcome New Regional Directors & Deputy Director- President, Dunia Elvir
Dunia thanked the staff and board for their hard work. Dunia also welcomed Gilbert Bailon officially as deputy director of NAHJ, she also welcomed our new regional directors..

II. Status of Organization - Executive Director, Yaneth Guillén-Díaz
Yaneth discussed the financial health of NAHJ, noting that the organization remains stable and healthy. She also covered the 2026 conference booths, sponsors, plenaries and waitlist events for the conference. Yaneth thanked our 2026 conference and programming chairs for their dedication to NAHJ.

Yaneth issued a reminder that the deadline for the NAHJ Hall of Fame Awards is March 20.

She also covered the membership numbers, with NAHJ currently at about 3,600 members with about 200 in a grace period for renewal.

Yaneth added that NAHJ Cares initiative will continue in an effort to offer resources for our members to focus on self care, resilience, and long term sustainability. She confirmed there will be new workshops and trainings in tangent.

In regards to palabra, Yaneth said the goal is to continue to grow the platform and thanked Patricia and Rodrigo for their work as co-editors.

As for the Excelencia Awards, Yaneth reminded the board that it is NAHJ's second largest fundraiser and anyone who would like to make a referral for event chair is encouraged to do so.

III. Communications Dept Update- Deputy Director, Gilbert Bailón

- Discussed membership, partnership initiatives, and reminder to sign up for early bird registration for conference

IV. Financial Update- Financial Officer, Carlos Rodríguez

- Carlos discussed the transfer of funds from a checking account to an investment account so they can be utilized for scholarships and secured accordingly to accrue over time. This ~\$400K transfer should bring the scholarship fund to about or above \$1M and designate part of last year's surplus exclusively for scholarships.
- Nancy asked how the org can get the word out to amplify the impact of NAHJ's funding and scholarship success. Carlos said the savings and surplus for NAHJ remains a highlight for the organization but as a whole, there needs to be work done on how to properly report financials considering funds come from our account, individual donors and other avenues of funding.

Carlos made the motion to approve transfer of funds from a checking account to an investment account.

Julio Seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

V. NAHJ Fundraising Tracker- Jaime Cárdenas

-Diana explained the expectation that all members of the board moving forward will be expected to contribute annually \$2,500 in some form on behalf of their chapter, or alternatively, offer auction items to attain equal value.

-Jaime reminded the board that the goal is to cumulatively raise \$45,000 for NAHJ. Jaime is the point person for the tracker to monitor everyone's contributions, or the board member can manually insert their details independently on the tracker.

July 22 is the deadline for everyone to make their contributions.

Dunia added that this is the last year for the Maria Elena Salinas Scholarship and everyone is encouraged to find someone who may be interested in becoming an annual supporter for a scholarship.

VI. Public Questions & Comments

-Nancy asked how many registrations for the conference we have so far. Yaneth said so far, the registration tally is lower than last year at this time of year. She remains optimistic that enrollment will increase in the next few months as we also wait for bulk registrations to come through.

-Gilbert and Julio will connect with regional directors for branding materials to share with local chapter leaders. Nancy also asked Jaime and Yaneth to provide branding verbiage to share with potential sponsors to encourage fundraising.

-Dunia notified the board that a new electronic vote for a new chapter will be sent out next week.

VII. New business:

- A. Next board meeting date: June 6th, 2026 at 12:00 PM ET - 11:00AM CT 9 a.m. PST

VIII. Adjournment

Dunia adjourned the meeting at 12:04pm CST.