



# June Board Meeting

**Wednesday, June 14, 2017 / NOON / ADG 3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

## Attendees

Jennifer Ellis, Sonny Rhodes, Bobby Ampezzan, Syd Hayman, Iveta Imre, Rob Mortiz, Kelly Kissel, Sarah Morris, Chelsea Boozer, Sarah Campbell-Miller

## Agenda

1. June annual mixer & voting (Jennifer)
2. July Google Training event (Sonny A.)
3. FOI Legislative Taskforce (Jennifer, Chelsea, Sonny A.)
4. Financial update (Kelly)
5. Events

## Discussion

### 1. June Annual Mixer & Voting

- Jennifer talked to Blue Canoe Brewing about a section that can seat 35 people for free. Blue Canoe will make sure this won't be open to the public. Everyone in the section can have separate tabs.
- Jennifer will visit Blue Canoe Brewing tonight (6.14.2017) to see if the space works for us. A flier will be created and distributed tomorrow if the venue checks out.
- The annual mixer will discuss our chapter's annual report, and we will have a voice vote for new board members and officers
- Sonny Rhodes is vacating his board seat but will still be on our education committee. Our chapter has one more board seat to fill.
- Bobby offers to contact Wes Brown with Talk Business & Politics about either him or any of his staff being interested in a board seat
- Getting a broadcast journalist on the board is still a goal
- Potential board members to recruit: Ibby Caputo, reporter for the Arkansas *Nonprofit News Network* and other outlets; Kim Christ, deputy managing editor at the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*; Erica Sweeney, freelance journalist; Lindsey Millar, editor of the *Arkansas Times*
- Several Arkansas Pro Chapter members are not currently listed on our chapter's roster. Some may need to contact national headquarters about ensuring that they 1) are up to date on their dues and 2) that their national membership is linked to

our chapter. Members must pay dues to the national headquarters in order to be on the Arkansas Pro Chapter board

- Giveaway SPJ sweatshirts to those who become new members at the annual mixer

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- **Visit** Blue Canoe to check out space (Jennifer)
- **Create** flier promoting annual mixer (Jennifer)
- **Distribute** flier on annual mixer by Thursday, June 15 (Jennifer)
- **Contact** Wes Brown, Erica Sweeney, Ibby Caputo, Kim Christ and Lindsey Millar regarding interest in a board seat (Board)

### **2. July Google Training event**

- The Butler Center/Arkansas Studies Institute has a free room that can hold 45 people.
- Sonny A. is waiting to hear back from our Google trainer on if we can get a second trainer to train on specific modules. We should not market the training event just yet.
- The event will take place Friday, July 21, with registration beginning at 9 a.m. and the event likely being held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Those who attend must RSVP because of space.
- The ADG will be contacted regarding paying for lunches for this training.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- **Contact** the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette regarding paying for meals (Sonny A.)

### **3. FOI Legislative Task Force**

- Chelsea and Sonny A. prefer the representative for this task force be an active reporter/working journalist.
- Refer to Act 923 for info on the task force. "To create the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act Task Force in order to evaluate and recommend changes to the Freedom of Information act of 1967."
- It is suggested that the representation of the task force mirror the percentage of those who utilize FOI most.
- If we select a nonjournalist representative, that person can still consult SPJ for comments to present to the committees.
- ***The Arkansas Pro Chapter votes 9-1 to ask John Tull to be SPJ's Arkansas FOI Legislative Task Force representative.***

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- **Contact** John Tull regarding interest in the FOI Legislative Task Force

### **4. Financial Update**

- Sonny R. says that the contact for the Dean Duncan scholarship hasn't said how much he'll donate next but is happy about the Arkansas Pro Chapter's Dean Duncan Scholarship recipient; they will send the winner a congrats.

## 5. Events

- Suggested events for August include: fake news pub trivia night, journalism board game night, Ethics powerpoint presentation by SPJ national
- August event: Bobby says Arkansas Public Media has orchestrated a trivia night at Stone's Throw Brewing and suggests we do three rounds of 3-5 questions for fake news pub trivia night. Bobby can reach out to Ian Beard at Stone's Throw about this and see which date in August could work. Iveta and Sarah Campbell-Miller express interest in assisting with this event.
- Little Rock Nine event update (September): Sonny A. will provide an update next week. Syd says she will look into the Arkansas State Press archives that are available through Janis Kearney, former managing editor and publisher of the Arkansas State Press.
- Death Race event (October): Bobby will touch base to see if Friday, Oct. 13, works for Craig O'Neill; if it doesn't, we'll find another local celeb for the event

## Announcements & Comments

- Sonny R. said an editor from ASU had trouble with entering the contest.
- Social media blast should take place promoting entry period for the contest.

### NEXT STEPS:

- Sonny A. will **modify the contest instructions** to clarify that one must be an open call contestant if he or she is not entering as a news organization
- Iveta to **create flier promoting the contest**
- All committees to **decide on their next meeting dates** by June 28, the date of the annual meeting.

## Next Meeting Agenda

- Wednesday, July 12, 2017
- Filling vacant slot on board
- Feedback from John Tull
- Events
  - August Fake News Pub Trivia Night update
  - Little Rock Nine Event Update