General membership meeting conducted virtually

July 18, 2020 10 a.m.

Minutes taken by Secretary Krista Torralva

Present: Nora Lopez, Laura Garcia, Silvia Foster-Frau, Angelica Garza, Mary Melton, Elaine Ayala, Elva Villapondo, Javier Flores, Esther Foster, Jessi Shi, Teresa Nino, Francisco Vara-Orta, Iris Gonzales, Josh Peck, Stephanie Melchor, Steven Santana, Yolanda Haymon, Nikiza Goga, Michael Quintanilla, Martha Tijerina, Diana Fuentes, Tony Quesada

Welcome by Nora Lopez and introductions.

Krista Torralva motions to approve minutes from June meeting. Michael Quintanilla seconds. Motion carries with no opposition.

Treasurer report by Laura Garcia:

$1,541.91 in operations.

$88,651.73 in gala account.

$3,470.60 in PayPal account.

$38,672.13 in SA Foundation (after taking out our record amount of scholarships).

KABB had purchased a table for our gala and said we could have it as a donation ($3,000).

We got an extension for our 990 and that is in process right now. Any time we give money, like for the scholarship recipients, we need to provide their full name and address to our CPA. Same for professional grants.

Gerardo "Jerry" Hernandez, a longtime supporter, gave us $4,000.

CPA wants to know if we want to write off $16,000 for unpaid donation invoices in 2016.

Angelica Hernandez recommends doing it.

Laura Garcia agrees.

Dany Sanchez agrees and recommends looking at those people/businesses and finding out if they're requesting services from us.

Laura motions we write off the 2016 unpaid sponsor balances of $16K. Angelica seconds. Motion carries without opposition.

Laura will provide a list of folks that did not pay.

Discussion of virtual gala plans, presented by Tony Quesada and Michael Quintanilla. Telemundo is putting the videos together. Silvia Foster-Frau is reaching out to media outlets to collect videos of journalists in the field for a video montage.

Silvia Foster-Frau provides update on SAAHJ's involvement with the News Leaders Association, the organization that surveys newsrooms for their diversity outlooks. Krista Torralva and Tony Quesada will serve on the research groups as representatives of SAAHJ.

Discussion of Fiesta medals. They were ordered, but due to the pandemic they were never distributed. Krista Torralva suggests a curbside pickup event in November, when Fiesta would have been. Further discussion is tabled to the next meeting.

Javier Flores presents results of the SAAHJ election. Javier noted that Francisco Vara-Orta verified the elections results. Both Javier and Francisco abstained from voting to remain independent and impartial. They also noted that they received member questions about whether or not the results of who voted for whom would be made public and the answer is no. Who voted for who is confidential, Javier said.

Results:
Total Member Ballots Received: 148 (144 eligible – 2 past deadline, 2 not current on dues/not current members)

PRESIDENT
Silvia Foster-Frau – 77 votes
Laura Garcia – 67 votes

VICE PRESIDENT – Krista Accepts
Silvia Foster-Frau – 17 votes
Laura Garcia – 8 votes
Tony Quesada – 29 votes
Krista M. Torralva – 73 votes

SECRETARY
Jeannette E. Garcia – 110 votes
Yolanda Haymon – 13 votes

TREASURER
Laura Garcia – 48 votes
Yolanda Haymon – 74 votes

AT-LARGE MEMBER, PRINT – Steven Accepts
Steven Santana – 34 votes
Krista M. Torralva – 81 votes (Accepts position of Vice President)

AT-LARGE MEMBER, BROADCAST
Jose Arredondo – 111 votes

AT-LARGE MEMBER, COMMUNICATIONS

Veronica De La Torre – 25 votes
Teresa Niño – 91 votes

Nora Lopez congratulates everybody and notes that this was an unprecedented election. Never had election turnout as large, nor as many contested races. Nora wishes the board good luck and success.

Krista Torralva, who won two races, accepted Vice President, making Steven Santana at large member for print.

Nora notes that the current board remains until the end of August, at which point the new board will take the reins.

Michael Quintanilla motions to adjourn. Esther Foster seconds. Motion carries without opposition.