

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**NOON EDT, APRIL 29, 2023**

**Call to Order**

SPJ President Claire Regan called the meeting to order at 12:07pm. EDT. She introduced Fred Brown as the parliamentarian. Mark Bailen, SPJ Counsel, also present.

**Roll Call**

Treasurer-Secretary Israel Balderas called roll. Present via Zoom were: Claire Regan, Ashanti Blaze-Hopkins, Emily Block, Jody Rave Spotted Bear (absent, arrived a few minutes later), Adam Sennot, Kevin Smith, Peter Szekely, Daniela Ibarra

**Welcome**

Regan informed the Society that today's meeting would focus on the budget. She thanked the board and staff for all the hard work that went into putting the budget together. She also informed the Society that she added an extra public comment session to the agenda to members could be heard on the budget process.

**Meeting Minutes**

Regan called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 25, 2023 and April 6, 2023. Ibarra made the initial motion. Szekely seconded. Regional Coordinator Jennifer Ellis requested a correction via email and Royer indicated she would make such change. The motion passed unanimously.

**SPJ President's Report**

Regan highlighted a couple of non-budget accomplishments

- Received requests for comment from different news outlets which just shows that SPJ's voice matters on a national level; also issued quite a few statements about different topics
- Established a task force in response to a Media Fest incident and that task force is in progress, already working on the issue of members behavior. Danielle McLean leading this effort to establish a code of conduct for the society
- She's been working to open SPJ meetings through webinar. Chairs have been encouraged to make that happen.
- Stay tuned to a new look of our Weekly Newsletter leads
- She mentioned that the President established office hours so members can talk one-on-one with her.

**Interim Executive Director's Report**

Royer highlighted a few items staff has been working on:

- Had a successful Sunshine Week. FOI Chair Spotted Bear did a great job.
- Did a day of giving and just wrapping up Ethics Week. Fred Brown and his committee has been working with Rod Hicks to put on a lot of really interesting webinars.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Balderas expressed gratitude that a larger number of interested members were present to learn about the budget process. He gave broad picture of what's been going on since December when Balderas informed both the Board and the Society when he used the word "dire" to describe the budget predicament SPJ faces. He introduced Interim Executive Director Royer, who would brief the Society on what has transpired budget wise with the organization for the past 5 – 8 years, and how the organization arrived at its current budget crisis.

Before turning it over to Royer, Balderas thanked all the SPJ Finance Committee Members for lending their expertise on budget matters - Matt Hall, Patty Newberry, Frank Lamonte, Claire Regan, Ashanti Blaze-Hopkins, Jody Rave Spotted Bear and Peter Szekely. He informed the Society that the Committee has met over a dozen times since December, the last meeting taking place three weeks prior to this meeting. At that last meeting, several Society members asked if they could monitor deliberations, which they were able to do under rules detailed in the SPJ Policy and Procedure book.

### **2023 Budget Review and Adoption**

- a. 2022 Finance Report and YPTC 2022 Finance Memo  
Royer mentioned a couple of memos in the board packet. One was from YPTC, closing out the 2022 budget. The memo highlights what happened last year budget wise. Royer said her presentation would go into further detail. A second memo related to the 2023 budget. Included with that memo was a Question and Answer briefing answering various questions raised by SPJ members concerned over budget matters.

In her presentation, Royer explained how SPJ arrived at its budget predicament:

- b. YPTC 2023 Budget Memo
  - 2022 was a very unusual year, lost several other staff members including our accountant our controller
  - SPJ needed to clean up its budget mess, that's when the board decided to hire Your Part Time Controller in November working since then to bring organization up to date on 2022 financials while simultaneously working on the 2023 budget
  - Media Fest was budgeted to bring in a profit of a 108,000, but the '22 convention ended up resulting in a deficit of \$14,000. Every revenue line from Media Fest that we were anticipating came in below what was projected, especially the opening night reception. It was budgeted at \$20,000 but ended up almost \$88,000.

- Where we are now, the 2022 books are closed, YPTC is going to begin working with our auditors on the 2022 audit
- The SPJ Foundation approved its 2023 budget last weekend. Once the SPJ budget is approved we can begin submitting 2023 quarterly reports to both Finance committees so SPJ can keep them posted and we can all monitor where the organization is in real time.
- RE: the budget process, staff and both Finance committees have worked since January on several iterations of both budgets for SPJ and the Foundation expenses were cut in both budgets so that they would show a surplus. Even though they're small surpluses, they are surpluses. The cuts are uncomfortable but they will still allow for the business of the Society to be conducted.
- the bottom line is that SPJ has lost sources of revenue such as Association Management clients. There are some grants SPJ didn't receive in 2022 but expenses have remained the same and gone up in some cases.
- YPTC accounting work shows that the 2022 actuals don't show any signs of misappropriation of funds.
- The 2023 proposed SPJ budget has a surplus of \$299 after severe cuts.
- There's no money in this budget for an executive director search firm; there's no money for a new membership database. Student Leadership Institute is going to have to be put on pause. We're not filling open positions of Staff accountant, controller, and administrative assistant. Money for Royer's former position as communications director is not in this budget.
- The salaries and related costs are down \$322000 from 2022. Board and regional coordinator stipends in this budget are reduced by half. There are no chapter grants; staff travel has been eliminated except for convention. There's no cost of living increases or other raises for staff.
- The 2023 proposed Foundation budget approved last Sunday has a surplus of \$17, 232 under unrestricted funds, around \$4000 for restricted fund. Because of the market fluctuations, the Foundation has a smaller surplus this year than their usual Investments. That took a hit, so the Foundation approved at its meeting using a 5.5% rolling average on its unrestricted investments.
- Going forward, HQ will be focused initially on finding grants that would help pay for just the everyday operating expenses of SPJ, and funds that could potentially help with a membership database. The good news is SPJ renewed the grant from Google
- This budget will increase membership dues by 5%. It hasn't increased since 2011 and this amounts to \$3.75 a year for professional members and \$1.88 increase a year for student and retired members.
- Staff is recommending that the SPJ board of directors approve this proposed budget. It's already Q2 of 2023 and SPJ is operating based on the 2022 approved.

c. Budget

Balderas began his presentation putting the budget process (reconciling the 2022 budget and drafting the 2023 budget) into context.

- The SPJ foundation and the Board couldn't move forward on their respective budgets until each organization knew how much money they had to work with.
- Balderas said there's always a question as to what the role of the Foundation is when it comes to the finances of the SPJ board. It's his argument, as the treasurer mandated by law to fulfill his fiduciary duty to SPJ, that the Foundation and its bylaws direct the organization to support the work of SPJ. Therefore, Balderas said, the question is how much money can SPJ get from the Foundation so that the organization can meet its expenses related to its core mission – the First Amendment and Ethical journalism.
- Balderas explained the discussions and debates among the SPJ Finance Committee members surrounding budget priorities.
- Balderas explained that Royer's budget as presented to the Board shows a surplus of \$299. Otherwise, as discussed with SPJ counsel Bailen, it would be a breach of the board's fiduciary duty, to vote on a budget that has a deficit.
- Balderas went into detail explaining why that supposed budget surplus should be questioned. For example, regarding just one budget line item of how much revenue could come from membership dues – in 2022, membership revenues were projected to be \$350,000. But the actual was \$259,000, or approximately 3500 members paying \$75 in dues. Data shows over the past 5 years, membership roles have decreased year to year, anywhere from 15% - 25%. What are the chances that membership will increase from 3500 to 4700, which is where it would have to be for membership dues revenues to come in at \$350,000 for 2023/
- Balderas believes the actual revenues from membership dues for 2023 will come in at approximately \$200,000, which will be a deficit of \$150,000.
- Another budget item that concerned Balderas was the registration revenue generated from the SPJ 2023 convention, which is projected to be \$126,000. Given market conditions – inflation plus recession, plus the rising costs of travel to Vegas, Balderas tried to make the argument that such revenue will be much lower.
- After explaining further to Board members other concerns regarding the budget, and going into detail regarding how the Foundation and its members chose to fund SPJ's budget to a certain limit, Balderas informed members that the Foundation had a message for the organization – this is a one-time deal to help SPJ with its budget shortfall. This will not happen again in 2023 - 2024.
- If one looks at how much money SPJ is getting from the Foundation, they are now the largest provider of revenues by far.
- Balderas explained that one Foundation Board member, Alex Jones, like a few others, also agree the Foundation exists to help SPJ. Jones asked Balderas at the Foundation meeting last week, "how much do you need Israel," and Balderas replied, "I need more."

Balderas opened the floor for questions from Board members.

Emily Block asked the first question:

- She wanted to know what was the membership enrollment number used in putting together the 2023 budget? (Royer had said SPJ membership stands at 4400 v. 3500 cited by Balderas). Balderas informed Block that he's been asking for hard data regarding the actual membership number (how many members are paying their dues) and the answer is such number cannot be precisely derived from the Impexium database due to ongoing flaws.
- Royer was asked where she got that number of 4400 members. She answers, "it's been really hard to get accurate numbers." She then explained that at the end of December 31st 2022, SPJ conducted an internal report, and Impexium shows that SPJ had 5221 members. However, Royer also said that the member count at HQ is around 4,400. "But we're still working with Impexim to make sure such number doesn't include duplicate members."

Adam Sennott asked the next question:

- His question involved revenue lost from the convention. SPJ projected a revenue gain of \$108,000 but instead the actual numbers came in at \$14,000 in deficit. He pointed out that missed the mark by quite a bit under the previous executive director. He asked, "that type of inflated number, is that an anomaly or was do we have any idea if that's happened in previous years before?" Royer answered: "I can't answer for previous boards but that's why I'm doing this today so that I can make sure and say, 'look these are projected these are snapshots.' Other executive directors have done this absolutely."
- Balderas countered by saying, "you got to look at this from a business perspective and yes you have a snapshot but the snapshot has to face the reality of the market and I don't think in 2023 the market is there to sustain these numbers." Sennott expressed frustration that 3 previous staff members whose duty it was to monitor expenses and revenues "missed the mark."
- Regan jumped in and also expressed frustration that the opening ceremony was opened to 400 people while 1700 attended the convention. She argued that at conferences she's attended opening reception is part of the registration fee.

Daniela Ibarra asked the next question

- "You said that you aren't going to vote for the budget. But weren't you part of the committee that put together this budget and decided to put it in front of the board? So, I'm just kind of confused with what changed?"
- Balderas explained that nothing has changed. The finance committee was previously informed that he would not vote to approve the budget. The vote Balderas agreed upon was to move the budget proposal forward and present to the board in public viewing. This was the best budget that could be put together by a majority of the committee.

- Ibarra then asked, “what do you think the solutions are, because I didn’t hear any.” Balderas said for him it was cutting two jobs at headquarters plus also cutting 401k matching and raising insurance premiums on health insurance.

Kevin Smith asked the next question:

- Regarding the convention and the outside vendor, he asked why SPJ employs such a person. Is that a contract and when does the contract expire? Royer explained that right before Covid, the previous executive director hired an outside events planner person to plan conventions and awards (gets quotes for hotels) and also plans Future Leaders Academy and the Student Leadership Institute. That’s a year-to-year contract. A new contract with Katie has not been signed, it’s pending, valued at \$40,000. Royer said, “I do think we're getting our money's worth out of Katie.”
- Smith asked Royer to explain what’s the rate of new members enrolling and how is that number tracked? Royer said she wasn’t sure Impexium could provide an accurate number right now.
- Smith then commented if it “might be worth trying to figure out again how we might be able to do a better job at (membership) retention than we are recruiting. Balderas brought up a memo written in 2014 by then executive director Joel Skeel that SPJ could not sustain itself by predominately membership dues.
- Smith said he has been taken aback by a few things said by Balderas. More precisely, the idea that the Finance Committee discussed laying off staff. Smith displayed a sense of being irked that this was the first time he was hearing of this. Balderas pointed out that he and Smith had a conversation by phone in December where he detailed why layoffs had to be an option in order to fix the budget mess.
- Smith said he wasn’t sure he would be voting for the budget proposal.

d. Public Comment Period

Regan opened up discussion to the Society for public comment

- Alex Jones: why do you think laying off two people would solve the SPJ budget problem? Balderas said the money budgeted towards salaries could be shifted towards capital improvements, most importantly a new membership database. Such expenditure would benefit SPJ in a broader way. Jones then asked a follow up question: “if your projections for the coming year are correct, will SPJ be bankrupt in a year?” Balderas indirectly said yes. Jones said he agreed with that perspective. Jones then advised, “however you can reassure the Foundation board, which is inclined not to want to give you money because they basically have said the money we have given has been horribly mismanaged.” Jones said there are some Foundation members who believe given SPJ money won’t solve SPJ’s problems. But Jones said he sees it “as an opportunity to make a very very

important investment in SPJ at a critical time.” Jones said both boards are now interlinked. “I feel like there is a consensus that we need to save SPJ and how that's going to be done (with or without a new membership database) that's for other people to decide. But if you're going to get the money it's going to have to be based on a different kind of relationship between the Foundation board and SPJ.

- Regan followed up by saying she has been trying to forge that relationship as president. She has met several times with Foundation President Hagit Limor. She said she's trying to make it work. She believes there's goodwill on both sides.
- Bob Becker, public comment: he argued the proposed membership databased Salesforce was not a new database but rather a “complex web application that sits on top of a database that stores information. He has been against SPJ onboarding Salesforce. What he proposed was “that we rebuild the website using a different platform that actually we need because our website is horribly out of date technically as well as visually and in organization but along with that there are a dozen or more contact relationship managers like Salesforce that are open source that are customized regularly for organizations like SPJ.”
- Foundation Board Member Irwin Gratz: he reminded the Board that this budget proposal was just a snapshot. “No action the board takes today needs to be final with respect to the rest of this year.” He recommended the SPJ board adopt some form of a budget today. Given the financial circumstances, both of SPJ and the Foundation, both organizations will have to monitor expenses and income very closely and there will always be opportunities to make changes.”
- Regional Coordinator Jennifer Ellis asked for clarification regarding the board policy manual that indicates expenditures over \$5,000 not authorized in the budget has to be approved by the board. Royer explained that once the budget is approved, all expenditures within the budget have been essentially approved.
- SPJ Member Jonathan Make asked a question regarding “what controls might be put in place or precautions” that will help SPJ avoid the different budget issues presented today. Balderas started by addressing the issue of collecting dues from members. Unfortunately, that problem would require fixing Impexium. Balderas said HQ has one staff member who's at work tackling that problem. But Balderas pointed out the current database is quite complicated to manage. And because SPJ is about to sign a one year contract with Impexium, it doesn't look like recurring problems will be fixed any time soon.
- Foundation President Hagit Limor: Her experienced has been that both the Foundation and SPJ boards got along extremely well, extremely well. It's never been an issue until the last few years.” She said her and Claire have been working together to make that happen again. Limor also said “the Foundation has done a lot more this year than in my knowledge ever going beyond what we budgeted what we usually budget. When people say why can't you just pay for

this or for that we have limitations based on our tax status.” She also said, “I don't want it to be said here that the foundation needs to open its heart because that makes it sound like we're heartless and I feel like the members of the foundation have tried to do everything possible this year.”

- Celia Wexler: she expressed deep sympathy for board members and interim executive director Royer. As a condo board member, she's familiar with signing contracts. “It scares me to death that we might be signing a long-term contract even a year (with Impexium) but if we do there should be a non-performance clause.”
- Spotted Bear: addressing Limor's comments: “I understand the foundation is the largest revenue source for the SPJ board and I also hear that you know a bit of conflict has arisen in the last two years between the two boards. I just kind of want to extend that Olive Branch on how can we better strengthen that. You know perhaps we can find room for a grant that would allow for you know both both boards or the Finance Committees of the boards to you know possibly do some sort of retreat on uh for relationship building to bring the boards closer together.
- Adam Sennott wanted to clarify or perhaps get an answer to the following question: “What are the limitations to what the Foundation can give SPJ?” Limor provided a break down. “We are limited to a certain percentage of our Corpus.” Limor also added, “we are limited to spending money toward educational means. That's what our 501c3 (IRS) status is based on. That's why we can't just give money necessarily for a membership system to the best of my understanding but there are ways creative ways we've come up with to try to make that happen.” Irwin Gratz was also asked to weigh in on the question, and his answer was, “from my understanding and the short answer is in some respects there is none.” But he did add, the charge to board members is to protect the Foundation Corpus.
- Regan commented that she is open to the possibility of putting together a development committee to help with SPJ expenditures. She also said she's been working with others on brainstorming good ideas for revenue increase.

#### **e. Motion and Vote**

Balderas explained to the board that prior to voting on the budget proposal, board members would have to approve on specific budget line items. The first one being increasing membership dues by 5%. Peter Szekely made the initial motion to raise the membership dues. Blaize-Hopkins second the motion. Balderas put the motion up for discussion. No one raised their hand to comment. Balderas called for a roll call vote:

- Spotted Bear – yes
- Sennott – yes
- Blaize-Hopkins – yes
- Szekely – yes



- Smith – yes
- Regan – yes
- Ibarra – yes
- Block – yes
- Balderas – no

**Motion passed 8 – 1.**

Balderas initially suggested that the board vote further on individual budget items, like the Impexium contract. However, Szekely raised a point of order and objected to voting item by item. Parliamentarian Fred Brown was asked to weigh in on the question. He said the board could vote on the overall budget or item by item.

Blaize-Hopkins said she agreed with Szekely that the board should vote on the entire budget. She did ask Royer whether the new contract with Impexium included any outs for lack of performance within 30 -60 days. Royer said the company informed SPJ that they don't do that. Blaize-Hopkins suggested SPJ could sue Impexium for breach of contract given the company's lack of performance resolve. Blaize-Hopkins suggested Royer get SPJ counsel involved regarding contract issues. Royer said as of now, the company is being responsive. SPJ Counsel Mark Bailen said he's happy to jump in and review the contract.

Kevin Smith said the budget proposal was becoming more difficult for him to vote for. He agreed with Blaize-Hopkins that Impexium is consting SPJ "by being negligent in the way it's been providing us a service for our membership. Here we are ready to vote on a budget that includes another contract, a year contract with the same organization that is telling us that they're not going to be interested in a performance clause. And we have to sign a one-year contract with them and we're looping that into the budget. I tell you what that's a bitter pill for me to swallow." Bailen informed the board that Impexium does have a performance clause and if the board believes they've breached the performance, or if they to cure, the board could terminate for cause.

There was talked about the budget proposal lacking in money appropriated for a new executive director search or hire. Blaize-Hopkins made the point that such concerns could not be addressed in this meeting. She recommended the board approve the budget, given that the organization was operating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter fiscal year without an approved budget. "I will say this this budget, is not does not make me happy by any stretch of the imagination. And I would say that, I could speak confidently for everyone else who was on the Finance Committee that they feel the same. But at the end of the day, best practices for any organization is that we have to pass something so that we are actually able to get actuals on what is happening with our finances on a monthly basis....In the interest of time because I'm

sure none of us want to be here for another four hours we have to approve some version of the budget.”

Regan called for a vote on the motion to vote on the budget. Parliamentarian Brown informed the board the motion had to pass by 2/3rds of the board vote. The vote was unanimous.

**Regan called for the motion to adopt the 2023 budget proposal.**

- Sennott – yes
- Szekely – yes
- Blaize-Hopkins – yes
- Regan – yes
- Spotted Bear – yes
- Smith – yes
- Ibarra – yes
- Block – yes
- Balderas – no

**The 2023 SPJ Budget was approved 8 – 1.**

**Convention Program Committee**

Blaize-Hopkins thanked the board and members of the finance committee who an inordinate amount of time trying to get to this point.

She said the convention committee has been quite busy, with a lot of exciting news to share. The convention is going to look a little different when it comes to session.

SPJ will have 60-minute sessions, 90-minute sessions and some two hour sessions which is slightly different mostly because of the desire to have more time and space to breathe for a lot of the sessions.

The committee has 90 plus proposals submitted this year which was fantastic and all of them were very well thought out and very impactful. Blaize-Hopkins said it was a very difficult decision to narrow the list down. Based on the logistics of the space that we're in so SPJ now has 33 60-minute sessions, we have three 90-minute sessions, we have four two-hour sessions and SPJ will have two documentary screenings at the this year's convention.

Blaize-Hopkins proposed that in 2024 when she is President, that the conference committee revisit those proposals that had merit and could be impactful. She thanked

the members of the convention planning committee: Claire Regan, Rebecca Aguilar, Carolyn Burt, Nicole Sartain and Benjamin Davis Jr. And she also thanked everyone who submitted proposals as I said there were some very very strong proposals within that group of 90 plus submissions.

Regan then thanked Blaize-Hopkins for leading the committee in efficient meetings.

## **2024 Convention**

Royer informed the Board that she was in the process of getting RFPs from various cities for the 2024 convention. Those include Indianapolis, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Savannah, Georgia. She said the goal was to discuss those in more detail at the May board meeting. She did mention that there's an initial matter regarding whether the '24 convention would be in person or virtual. No date for the 2024 convention has been selected.

Regan opened for public comment points made by Royer. Blaize-Hopkins expressed her feelings SPJ would still in a difficult financial situation in 2024. She suggested that it might be a good idea in the short term to consider doing virtual conferences every other year starting in 2024.

Balderas agreed with Blaize-Hopkins.

Ibarra added her support to Blaize-Hopkins' concerns.

## **Committee Reports – Regan**

### **Professional Standards and Ethics–Fred Brown**

Regan called on Ethics Chair Brown to discuss Ethics Week. He informed the board that the committee had decided on "Trust in Journalism" as a theme.

He also informed the Society that that evening the committee was holding an open forum where anybody who has questions about ethics and ethics problem they wanted to address or to say about the Code of Ethics, there would be Ethics Committee members present to answer questions.

### **Freedom of Information–Jodi Rave Spotted Bear**

Regan asked that Spotted Bear talk about the work being done by the FOI Committee. She talked about Sunshine Week. The committee had activities every day, starting with a column on police disciplinary records in New York by Roy Gutterman. She I wrote a column about sunshine week and Steve Riley led a committee initiative on

the top 10 most urgent threats to Freedom of Information at the state and local levels. The committee also had a live webinar collaborating with Muck Rock. The topic of discussion was "A 101 on How to file a FOI request." She also detailed how this was the first year that SPJ awarded the Black Coal Award to a tribal

government. The FOI Committee was still getting feedback and press coverage on that.

No other committee chairs were present to give their reports.

### **Community Reports**

Freelance – Stacie Overton Johnson

Johnson gave a summary of what the Freelance Community has been doing. They added three new board members this year. They also have more diversity on their board. The community pitched four session proposals for the conference in Las Vegas, and they just received word that three were accepted and one was denied. The community is trying to do six virtual educational programming events this year along with 2 – 3 social networking events, all virtual. They just conducted last week the Business of Freelancing hosted by Ruth Tyler Carter and Hazel Becker. They had 42 registrants.

### **Public Comment Period**

Board member Emily Block informed the board that she is now working for the Philadelphia Inquirer and her newsroom this week provided training from the Transgender Training Institute (TTI). She said it was the most thorough LGBTQ trainings she's ever received. She wondered if down the line SPJ could partner with TTI and provide training similar to training sessions sponsored by Facebook and Google.

She also wanted to point out that while she was a yes vote on the budget proposal, she believes the current budget is unrealistic. Nonetheless she voted to move it forward.

She also informed attendees that after the board meeting, there would be another meeting made up of a members from a Google ListServe that includes Regional Coordinators. It would be an informal webinar, and Board member Kevin Smith would also be attending.

Daniela Ibarra wanted to highlight that SPJ spoke out about a situation in Oklahoma involving county sheriff that threatened to kill two reporters. SPJ was the only organization who spoke up about the incident. Since that happened, one of the County Commissioners resigned, however the sheriff has not. Ibarra wanted to praise SPJ for speaking up.

Kevin Smith congratulated Freelance Community Chair Stacie Overton Johnson for the work her community has been doing regarding growing its members. He congratulated her and Hazel Becker and everyone involved in such process. He pointed out that if one out of every eight members of SPJ is a freelancer, he wondered if there was a road map from that committee to increase the SPJ membership. He pointed out that The SPJ Foundation funds educational opportunities and he would hope that in the future SPJ could figure out ways to funnel some money into that committee so they can continue to do the wonderful work they have been doing.

Jonathan Make talked about controls and accountability regarding SPJ. He pointed out that when SPJ switched to the Impexium membership database software, there were a lot of promises made about how that would rectify the problems SPJ was having with the previous database. He was wondering what safeguards might SPJ put in place this time.

### **Old/New Business – Regan**

Next SPJ Board of Directors Meeting in May

Enter Executive Session

Fellows of the Society selection

Regan suggested the board table discussion on this matter until the next meeting. Royer said she's received between 20 – 22 nominations.

Sennot informed the board that he submitted four nominations. He asked if procedurally he would have to excuse himself from voting due to a conflict of interest. Parliamentarian Brown said he knew of no such rule. Bailen said there may be no rule, but rather this would be a question of ethics.

Regan asked if there was a motion to table discussion about the Fellows of Society nominations to the next board meeting. Blaize-Hopkins made the motion. Ibarra seconded. By show of hands, it was unanimous.

Adjournment

Regan thanked everyone for lively, difficult and successful discussion. Blaize-Hopkins made a motion to adjourn. Szekely Seconded. By voice vote, it was unanimous.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m. EDT.**