

Arizona Press Club Board meeting, March 3, 2007

Alia Rau's house

Present: Valeria Fernandez, Paul Rubin, Wendy Miller, Le Templar, Craig Anderson, Laura Clymer, Patti Epler, Alia Rau, Sarah Fenske

Le called the meeting to order at 11:30, saying that we'd start without a quorum. We have a number of excused absences, including Jill, Ryan, Sarah Lynch, and Niki.

Contest update. Gawain is charging \$700 to do the program design. *New Times* already paid its \$2,000, but it's not enough to cover the full cost. We're scaling back the number printed already; we'll have to pay \$200 in addition to *New Times* donation.

Le added that we told the judges to send their picks by 3/15; we can probably send out the winner's list by mid-to-late March. Valeria said that business judging was lost somewhere in the Mexican mail system. We must remember to use certified mail next year for international judges.

Monica began the banquet update. She said the DJ will be there from 6-10 p.m.

Beque arrived at 11:40.

The last thing to work out is the program, Monica said. We'd like to keep it as short as possible and incorporate some elements into the cocktail reception before the banquet. She anticipates zero problems. Patti spoke about the need to hook up with a driving service for intoxicated guests. Le said he'd look into it.

Le asked Monica to ask Fitzsimmons for his ideas about keeping it short. He also asked her to write a publicity note for the winners email.

Beque gave the treasurer's report. Total contest receipts are just over \$31K. We have a \$29,806 balance. We should have \$9,255 left after the banquet. The board discussed the need to provide more training and more scholarships. Le said it's getting harder to get space for free to host the training; we should be able to use the money.

Tickets will be \$35. If we get 200 paying people, we'll have \$7K, but it all depends on how many people we comp, Beque said. Beque also noted a bounced check from the *Desert Advocate*, which she would follow up on.

Le brought up board membership. Rick Barrs hasn't been at a meeting in ages. Sarah and Paul agreed to ask him whether he wants to continue. Juan also hasn't attended in months. Valeria said she'd talk to him. Le mentioned that Candace said she hasn't been getting the emails. But she knew about today's meeting and yet isn't here.

Le suggested voting off Cisco because he hasn't been active. Also, Ric hasn't been coming, and hasn't gone to the First Amendment Coalition either, which is why he's

a member. Patti suggested asking Jill to “revisit” his arrangement. Le also said that Amelia has left town.

Patti moved to remove Francisco, Amelia, and Candace from the board. Paul seconded. Unanimous vote.

Discussion about training. If we commit ourselves, Le said, we could get someone from out of state for banquet day, but we don’t have to do it. Laura said it was unrealistic. If we want to increase training opportunities, it’s not bad to be in Phoenix at that time of year; it gives people another reason to come to the banquet. But she doesn’t want to do it this year. Patti suggested not doing it this year, but really plan for next year. Beque said we should throw our energy into the fall. Le said we could do Flagstaff in the fall, Phoenix next spring. Alia said she’d rather do Yuma or Wickenburg. Laura suggested Tucson. Patti said that maybe the *Star* would pay for it.

Monica left.

Le said we should lean on the big May winners to come to Flagstaff this fall. Sarah proposed a preliminary budget for Flagstaff: \$1500, same as last year. Valeria suggested getting Jose Martinez, editor of *La Estrella*. Le’s goal was to have enough details to promote the fall event at the May banquet. He said he would head up that effort.

Sarah gave a Brickwall update. We’ve received three nominations, but she wasn’t thrilled with them. She was more enthused about the *Republic*’s case involving the Pima County manager. Le was unconvinced, based on an interview he’d done, that the *Republic* hadn’t hurt its own case. He thought the *Trib*’s case against Scottsdale might be even better. Sarah said she’d extend the deadline and asked the *Republic* and *Trib* representatives to submit detailed info about the cases. Discussion about possibility of renaming the award after Arpaio. The board agreed to wait until a year where he wins.

Discussion about the Distinguished Service award. We had four nominations. Laura to look into the *Navajo Times*, as it may be the 20th anniversary of their independence. The board agreed to revisit in April.

Discussion about scholarships. Letters were distributed; Wendy said she’d received 8-9 calls. Beque to send another email blast. Alia suggested doing something to honor the contact at Paradise Valley Community College, since her students always enter and do well.

Beque suggested a grant for journalists from small papers to attend the IRE conference. Sarah suggested limiting it to people from papers that compete in the A&B categories, or any Spanish publication. Beque moved to spend up to \$500 to offer grants to three working journalists to attend the IRE conference in Phoenix. Sarah seconded. Le asked if the scholarship committee would take the responsibility of sorting applications. He suggested an April 1 deadline and said we should ask for letters of application and letters from the reporter’s supervisor. Unanimous vote.

Le said he'd send a letter to the Cleveland Press Club, expressing concern about how they handled judging assignments.

Le said we should plan on a meeting in April 14. He'd check with Jill and Gawain to see about holding it in Tucson.

Sarah moved to adjourn at 1:15. Paul seconded. Unanimous.