

Texas AAJA Conference Call: June 18, 2011

Present: Iris Kuo, Tom Huang, Aman Batheja, Priscilla Luong, Ted Kim

Agenda items

- Update from Tom on National
- Update from Priscilla on finances
- Convention plans
- Stipend discussion
- How best to use our new volunteers
- Listserv
- Next newsletter

--Update from Tom on National

Tom said the convention preregistration deadline had been extended to July 8 and urged the board to promote the event to our members. Tom said the Texas chapter was behind in our goal for registrants attending. Tom noted other journalism groups have started holding conferences at universities, a model that might work better for AAJA.

--Update from Priscilla on finances

Priscilla talked about finances, closing old accounts and transferring completely to Bank of America. Iris and Priscilla also discussed making future transitions between treasurers easier.

--Convention plans

Iris, Ted and Tom said they will be going to the convention. Priscilla said she would be there for at least the last two days to attend the treasurer's meeting, and possibly longer.

Iris suggested giving less of a stipend to the chapter leaders, perhaps a set amount. Priscilla agreed that cutting the stipend would be good for the chapter's finances. Board agreed to set the stipend at \$500 per person for the board president, treasurer and national representative.

The Board discussed trying to find items for the convention silent auction. The Board agreed to ask former board members with experience securing auction items in the past for assistance, including Scott Nishimura and Esther Wu.

--Stipend discussion

Iris said the Board should capitalize on the looming convention registration deadline by promoting the stipend right away. Tom asked about offering two \$500 stipends instead of one \$1,000 one to encourage more participation. Aman pointed out that someone may have already applied thinking it was \$1000 stipend. Aman suggested deciding the number of applicants over email after he confirmed from Scott Nishimura whether any applications have been received yet or not.

The Board agreed to move the stipend deadline one day back to July 1 to give the committee enough time to pick a winner before the July 8 preregistration deadline

Aman agreed to email Yahoo! Group about stipend on Monday.

Iris suggested calling it a convention fellowship this year in order to better tie the stipend to the AAJA convention

--How best to use our new volunteers

The Board discussed how to best utilize the three convention fellowship winners who are now required to volunteer two hours to the chapter Iris, Priscilla and Aman discussed having volunteers host a small event at a college. Iris said she would talk to the volunteers about organizing a get-together in their area with students and other AAJA members.

--Listserv

Iris said the Yahoo! listserv was becoming unusable because of problems with adding new members. Ted suggested switching to a simple mass email list. Aman agreed to try that for the Monday stipend email and use "AAJA Texas:..." in the subject line.

--Next newsletter

The Board discussed topics for the next newsletter: new web editor needed, professional stipend deadline, announcing the fellowship winners.

Regarding the new web editor, Iris suggested finding one person to take care of Facebook and Twitter and another person to focus on keeping the website updated. The Board discussed trying to find a student who would be willing to take on one of those roles.

Aman agreed to get the newsletter out by Wednesday. Iris said she would be able to write most of it. Aman agreed to write up the stipend announcement.