

Texas AAJA Conference Call, Sept 15, 2011

Present: Iris Kuo, Tom Huang, Ted Kim, Aman Batheja, Lee Ann O'Neal, Sandy Knott

AGENDA:

- Update from national
- Board elections
- Chapter banking and transitions between treasurers
- Scholarship update
- Improving engagement and outreach to current and potential members
- Potential local J Camp participation

-- Update from national

Tom said the latest update from National shows the organization is still behind in revenue and that convention turnout was less than expected. Tom said the chapter has 1,459 members with 26 members in Texas.

--Board elections

The board discussed plans for the chapter elections. There are openings for secretary, national representative, vice-president and treasurer. Tom said he's planning to rerun for National Chair representative. Aman said he won't be running for another term as secretary. Iris said the chapter also needs to find a web editor and scholarship chair. Iris said Ruth Liao had expressed interest in running for vice-president.

Aman suggested recruiting someone younger for secretary who would see the secretary responsibility such as overseeing the newsletters as a good early career experience and resume material.

Lee Ann suggested emailing those who have expressed interest in getting involved in the chapter in the past.

-- Chapter banking and transitions between treasurers

Lee Ann said she's in the process of transition the chapter's banking data from Priscilla to her.

Lee Ann spoke about handling the board's finances in the future would be easier if she transferred to an online only bank. The board said they approve of such a move.

--Scholarship update

Iris said she's concerned that the scholarship isn't being promoted enough. The board discussed if distributing the scholarship was still the best use of the chapter's money.

Tom suggested using the \$1,000 per year to host a student-oriented event. Iris agreed that it would make sense to cultivate relationships with students and journalism schools.

Iris noted that the scholarship recipient needs to be mentioned in the next newsletter.

Aman asked if Texas would be the only AAJA chapter not giving out scholarship. No one was sure but Tom suggested telling the national board that the chapter is considering suspending its scholarships.

The Board also talked about awarding stipends on a rolling basis. Aman suggested setting a maximum limit of stipends awarded per year in case too many applications come in next year.

Lee Ann suggested not setting a deadline for either the scholarship or the stipend and deciding how much to award based on the applications received.

Ted suggested setting aside \$2,000 a year for scholarships, stipends and student events. The board agreed to publicize the student and professional awards as "awards of up to \$1,000."

-- Improving engagement and outreach to current and potential members

Iris spoke about how the board could form a more coordinated effort to find more chapter members. The board also discussed specifically drawing more working broadcast journalists of Asian background into the chapter.

- Potential local J Camp participation

Tom explained to the Board that Kathy Chow is writing grant proposals to do one or two J Camp events in different cities. These would be a half-day or full-day event with teaching sessions for about 40 local high school students. The Annie Casey foundation

would fund all of the expenses of the event; the heavy lifting from the chapter would be to find the meeting space, developing the programming and finding the journalists to teach and provide mentoring. The board spoke about the possibility of Texas hosting such an event in fall 2012. The Board agreed to pursue hosting such an event.