



San Antonio Association of Hispanic Journalists

General Membership Meeting – June 19, 2018

San Antonio Express-News

301 Avenue E

Host: Nora Lopez

Attendees: President Joey Palacios, Vice President Nora Lopez, Treasurer Angelica Garza, Secretary Tony Quesada, Board Member at Large/Print Sergio Chapa, Libby Castillo, Mark Duvoisin, Gabe Hernandez, Danny Sanchez, Didi Fuentes, Elaine Ayala, Maury Vasquez (late arrival)

The meeting called to order at 6:47 pm.

Introductions

Members in attendance introduced themselves.

Welcome

Nora introduced Mark Duvoisin, the new executive editor of the San Antonio Express-News. Mark spoke about his recollections of living in San Antonio as a child when his father was in the Air Force. He described the Express-News as a family. He said this association is so important as a place where journalists can come together and remind each other what we do. He is extremely happy to see Elaine Ayala receive the lifetime achieve award. He said the core strengths of the Express-News are its credibility and institutional knowledge on its staff.

Minutes and Membership Report

The minutes were deferred to the next meeting

Tony reported that membership is at about 60 to 75 members. Tony said that anyone who wonders whether he or she current on dues can check with Tony.

Treasurer's report

Angelica gave the treasurer's report

- Operation account: \$3,187.19
- Foundation account: \$118,126.27

Angelica just made a deposit. The balance includes some money that was collected from past galas.

Also, these balances are independent of the balance of the SAAHJ's scholarship account with the San Antonio Area Foundation.

A discussion was held regarding other worthy journalism education programs we can spend some of our money on.

Angelica said she is starting to file our taxes. She said she has had a learning curve associated with the SAAHJ's financial software. We have filed an extension to November.

2018 Scholarship and Awards Gala

Angelica said Martha Tijerina has reached out to noted members of the Puerto Rican community for the gala. She and Martha have met with key members of that community to help educate us on issues related. We have secured seven tables so far from this community.

Angelica said we have sold about 200 seats so far.

We talked about doing a virtual phone bank in which Angelica can provide a list of calls to make.

Angelica said the mayor's office will be supporting the event.

There was a discussion about which organizations and companies have committed to sponsoring this year's gala.

Joey received a call from the USCIS. They want to have a naturalization ceremony for a soldier on stage during the gala. The consensus of the group was that they're welcome to attend, but that doing a naturalization ceremony would not fit with our program. There was a discussion of doing a program with the USCIS later in the year. Joey stressed that it should be open to journalists and that anything said should be on the record. Joey suggested inviting the organization to our July meeting.

Angelica suggested having the band called Echoes of Puerto Rico perform.

Angelica said the emcee will be Jessie de Gollado from KSAT.

Elaine said the invocation will be given by the American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions.

Libby mentioned that the Saturday before the gala there will be an event called the Latin Roots Music & Food Fest presented by the Association of Puerto Ricans in San Antonio from 1-11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, at Maverick Plaza at La Villita. We discussed attending that event to sell tickets to our gala.

Elaine said the mayor's communication director wants an itinerary for Mayor Cruz. It could include an opportunity for a VIP reception.

Board Elections

Nominations are open and will run through 11:59 p.m. on July 26. Voting will run from 8 a.m. July 9 and run through 11:59 p.m. July 13.

Joey was nominated for president

Nora was nominated for vice president

Sergio was nominated secretary

Tony was nominated for at-large print

Angelica was nominated for treasurer (Angelica accepted the nomination, but said she cannot be treasurer and gala chair)

For at-large broadcast, Joey said he approached Astrid Mendez at Telemundo, and Sergio will approach Jennifer Herrera at KLRN

For at-large communication, Joey nominated Nikiza Goga, pending her acceptance. Angelica suggested Melanie Mendez-Gonzalez.

If there is a tie, there will be a coin flip

Open Announcements

None

Adjourn

Nora moved to adjourn. Angelica second. Motion passed.

Adjournment at 8:34 p.m.