

SPJ Detroit Minutes – April 9, 2025, via Zoom

Attendees: Marty Fischhoff, Rob Davidek, Tracy Wolf, Mark Lee, Peg McNichol, Walter Middlebrook, Monica Williams, Beth Konrad, Annalise Frank, Jeff Payne, Anna Clark, Christine Ferretti, Mary Zatina; Marcia Hart, Administrator

Absent: Vince McCraw, Kennan Oliphant, Nicole Avery Nichols, Brianna Rice

Marty Fischhoff called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

President's Report

Marty Fischhoff reported that the Regional Conference was very well done. He thanked Peg McNichol and Tracy Wolf for their hard work. Marty and Walter Middlebrook also attended the conference.

Minutes – Mark Lee made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Peg McNichol and approved by a unanimous vote of the board.

Program - Tracy Wolf

- Tracy is looking at efficiencies with the banquet (program, announcement lists, etc.). We have hired a printer to prepare the certificates (rather than hand typing). Looking at ways to use technology to sort award order.
- Monica Williams reported on preparations for the silent auction. She wants to ramp it up from last year. She has a number of items already (golf certificates, dinners, travel, books, etc.)
- Tracy asked if all Lifetime Achievement honorees have been contacted.
- Tracy will have the Journalist/Young Journalist of the Year press release soon. She hopes to get it out to local media.
- Question was asked if there could be a bilingual version. Christine Ferretti and Monica asked if there would be any Spanish spoken at the banquet. Something to think about.

Scholarships – Annalise Frank

- Annalise reported that we received six applications. Three were great. We may be able to award three scholarships (one at \$2,500, and maybe two for \$1,500 each). They will be introduced briefly at the banquet.

Banquet

- Board member duties: Mark Lee will be MC. Up to six board members will serve as speakers/award presenters. Marty will make remarks. Three to four board members will hand out certificates. Three to four board members will work at the registration table.
- We will have promotional material for SPJ membership.
- There will be a QR code for auction bids.

- We should invite past recipients.

E-Mark Contest – Marty Fischhoff

- We will be announcing the new A-Mark contest and need judges. We will receive \$1,500 for administering the contest. We will need to get the word out to editors. Early June deadline.

Regional Conference – Peg McNichol

- The conference was good. It was well attended. It will be our turn in a couple of years.

FOIA -- Beth Konrad

- Beth Konrad noted that the FOIA activity is dormant.
- With Sunshine Week, some are making their voices known. There have been some good write-ups from the media.

Communications – Peg McNichol

- Peg is working on a template for communications. She will brainstorm with committee.

Membership – Rob Davidek

- Chrystal at SPJ National said they have a new way to work with membership. They are getting a better handle on sending out notices. Walter Middlebrook said he has had issues with local dues and finding local information during sign up.

Financial – Walter Middlebrook

Account balances of March 31:

- \$22,810.05: Checking
- 6,278.99: Scholarship savings
- \$13,014.65: E*Trade
- 5,600.54: PayPal
- \$47,704.23: Total

Next meeting: 8 a.m. Wednesday, May 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Committee Assignments (chairs in bold text)

- Programs: **Tracy Wolf**, Walter Middlebrook, Beth Konrad, Mark Lee, Monica Williams, Briana Rice, Anna Clark
- Membership Outreach: **Rob Davidek**, Mary Zatina, Walter Middlebrook
- Communication Committee: **Peg McNichol**, Christine Ferretti, Tracy Wolf
- FOIA: **Beth Konrad**, Mary Zatina, Peg McNichol
- Banquet: **Tracy Wolf**, Marcia Hart, Monica Williams
- Campus Outreach/Scholarship: **Annalise Frank**, Kennan Oliphant, Christine Ferretti, Briana Rice, Anna Clark and Beth Konrad
- Finance/Fundraising: **Walter Middlebrook**, Marty Fischhoff
- Bylaws and elections (nominating committee): **Marty Fischhoff**, Mark Lee, Rob Davidek, Peg McNichol, Walter Middlebrook
- Contest: **Walter Middlebrook**, Jeff Payne, Marty Fischhoff