

Chapter Bylaws

Southwest Missouri PRO Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists

The Board of Directors approved the following revised By-Laws on Tuesday, January 27, 2004 for submission to members, who approved these By-Laws as written on May 2, 2004.

Article 1: Preamble and Name

In order to associate journalists of talent, truth and energy into an organized unit of good fellowship; to assist the members in acquiring the noblest principles of journalism and to cooperate with them in this field; and in order to advance the standard of journalism by fostering the highest ethical code, we do hereby establish and ordain these bylaws and designate the name of this chapter as the Southwest Missouri PRO Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Article 2: Objectives

The objectives of the chapter shall be to promote the dignity and welfare of the journalistic profession in southwest Missouri; to create a better feeling among journalists through a cooperative interchange of ideas for the advancement of the profession; to encourage the highest standard of ethics in journalistic endeavors and policies; to protect the profession in legal and moral rights in the pursuance of its duties and obligations toward society; to recognize outstanding journalistic accomplishments; to reflect the profession's reaction toward achievement of leaders in civic and other community activities, and to cooperate with and assist departments and schools of journalism at institutions of higher learning.

Article 3: Insignia

The badge, key and ring of the chapter shall be the same as that prescribed for the National Society.

Article 4: Eligibility

The qualifications of a person for professional membership will be guided by the requirements set forth by the national society in its By-laws and directive.

Article 5: National Constitution

This constitution shall extend to include all of the provisions of the national Society By-Laws that apply to and govern professional members and chapters.

Article 6: Amendments

These by-laws may be amended or revised at a regular or special meeting by a majority vote of those present who are chapter members in good standing. But no vote on any proposed change shall be held until it has been circulated in writing to all members at least 10 days before a vote is taken.

Article 7 - Definitions

Section 1. "Chapter" as used herein shall refer to the Southwest Missouri Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Section 2. The name of the chapter shall be the "Southwest Missouri Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists."

Section 3. "Meetings" as used herein shall mean regularly scheduled or special meetings authorized by the Board of Directors.

Article 8 - Board meetings

Section 1. There shall be at least three board meetings each year. The times and places are to be scheduled by the Board of Directors. The President of the chapter also shall be authorized to call meetings of the chapter and of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The President of the chapter shall be the Chairman of the Board and shall preside at Board meetings.

Section 3. In any instance where these bylaws do not spell out specific procedures for the actions of the Chairman during Board meetings, the Chairman shall conduct affairs of the Board in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order. In any instance where these bylaws contradict Robert's Rules of Order, these bylaws must take precedence.

Section 4. A quorum of the Board for the transaction of official business shall consist of half of the Board plus one additional member. However, in an emergency declared by the President, a small number of directors may make expedient decisions, subject to formal ratification by a quorum at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Article 9 - Officers

Section 1. The officers of the chapter shall be Immediate Past-president, President, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, Programs Chairperson, FOI/Sunshine and Watchdog Chairperson and Website/Newsletter editor.

Section 2. All officers, except for Immediate Past President, shall be elected by the general membership of the chapter. These officers shall serve for one year or until a successor has been elected. Immediately after an election, either the retiring Secretary or incoming Secretary must notify National Headquarters of the names of the new officers and date they take office.

Section 3. The President is authorized to appoint such committees and/or committee chairs, as he/she deems necessary.

Section 4. Any member of the chapter may nominate themselves or another member as a candidate for a chapter office.

Section 5. The President of the chapter must be a working journalist at the time of his or her election to the office.

Section 6. The president shall be the executive head of the chapter. In the absence of the president, the vice president shall exercise all the duties, powers and responsibilities of the president and in case of vacancy shall succeed to the office of president.

Section 7. Duties of the secretary shall include keeping, transcribing and preserving the records of the chapter and such other duties as assigned by the president.

Section 8. The treasurer shall be the custodian of all chapter funds. He or she shall keep an account book, in which receipts and disbursements shall be entered. All chapter dues, initiation fees, special assessments and funds derived by the chapter from any activity it may sponsor shall be deposited in such chapter account, except for funds derived specifically for scholarship awards, which shall be maintained in a separate account solely for that purpose. Funds to be expended other than for regular and normal expenses must be approved by the board of directors.

Section 9. Duties of the vice president shall be to fill in for the president in his/her absence and to coordinate membership drives.

Section 10. The program chairpersons shall be responsible for organizing and developing regular SPJ meetings and programs, speakers, and panels on topics relevant to, and of interest to, area journalists.

Section 11. The Sunshine/FOI/Watchdog chairperson will coordinate chapter events dealing with the Sunshine Laws and FOI efforts. At least one Sunshine/FOI event should be held annually.

Section 12. The Web site and newsletter editor will maintain the local SPJ chapter website and newsletter.

Article 10 - Board of Directors

Section 1. All elected officers named in Article 9 shall be members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for these basic functions: (1) membership and attendance; (2) chapter meetings; (3) professional programs; (4) planning; (5) convention representatives; (6) cooperation with National Headquarters in all matters furthering the programs and goals of the society. This shall specifically include submission to National Headquarters of membership rosters, the chapter's annual report, and any other financial and official reports required.

Section 3. The elected Board members shall serve one-year terms or until their successors are elected. Chapter elections will be held in May of each year.

Section 4. The president shall appoint a nominating committee, which will advertise for candidates, and present a slate of candidates, who could include contested races, to the general membership for elections.

Section 5. Vacancies among Officers due to death, resignation or other cause shall be filled by a majority vote of the directors present at any meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section 6. Must be a Society of Professional Journalists member in good standing to vote.

Article 11 - Membership

Section 1. All members of the Society of Professional Journalists in good standing with the National Society shall be eligible for membership in the Southwest Missouri Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Section 2. No person shall be accepted until his/her application for membership has been approved by the National organization.

Section 3. Non-members may attend monthly meetings for a fee to be determined by the board, and it may vary depending on the event.

Section 4. There shall be an annual meeting and election (and installation) of officers at a time and place to be announced by the president.

Article 12 - Chapter bylaws

Section 1. Bylaws of the chapter can be amended by a majority vote of those members present and voting.

Approved by membership on: _____

Certified by:

Elizabeth Kelly Klay, chapter president

Angie Weidinger, secretary