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Pro Chapter Annual Report Submission

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Region Number: 3
Chapter Name: South Florida Pro
Submitted By: Tim Dodson & Michele Boyet
Submitter E-mail: mboyet@gmail.com
Chapter Web Site: <http://www.spjsofla.net/>

PRESIDENT INFORMATION

President's Name: Michele Boyet
Term Expires: December 31, 2012
Mailing Address: [REDACTED]
City, State, Zip: [REDACTED]
Preferred Phone: [REDACTED]
Preferred E-Mail: mboyet@gmail.com

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

At National Convention? Yes
Representative(s) at Convention: Michael Koretzky (elected Region 3 Director), Brandon Ballenger, Lisa Lucas, Dori Zinn, Sergy Odiduro and Gideon Grudo (who was elected as one of two SPJ National Student Members)
At Regional Conference? Yes
Representative(s) at Regional Conference: Rebekah Monson, and Gideon Grudo

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Description of Recruitment/Retention Activities:
Describe your ongoing membership recruitment and retention activities and the success of those activities.

To encourage networking, education and continued support of local journalists, the chapter holds monthly meet-ups throughout South Florida. Switching counties from West Palm Beach, to Boca Raton, Fort Lauderdale and Miami, the chapter hosts a meet-up event once a month. Most events are educational with a specific target goal such as design, social media and the First Amendment, however, two meet-ups this month have been strictly networking to draw new members.

CHAPTER PROGRAMMING

How many programs did your chapter hold? At least 12
Diversity Project or Program? No
FOI Project or Program? Yes
Description of Program: The chapter sponsored an iPhone App lists all Florida Records and Meeting Laws. The app, which puts chapters 199 and 286 of Florida Statutes on your iPhone, will be free to 50 of our local members.
<http://www.spjsofla.net/resources/spj-sofla-app/>

Ethics Project or Program? Yes
Description of Program: We held a monthly meet-up event to review and discuss the journalistic ethics many journalism forget when using social media to cover live events, promote their work and connect with sources. We called the event "How to Avoid Social Media Screw-Ups."

We also held another meet-up in Miami with photojournalist Carlos Miller and a local criminal defense lawyer called "Photojournalism Rights." Review: <http://www.spjsofla.net/2012/03/review-of-march-meet-up-via-storify/>

Participate in Service Project? Yes

Description of Program: SPJ South Florida joined a lawsuit against the City of Fort Lauderdale for violating the rights of photographers who were taking photos of a movie set from a public area and were being harassed and threatened with arrest by police. Also organized a friendly protest at the site of the movie set. Lawsuit is still ongoing.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Program Topic: Monthly Meet-Ups (many topics)

Description of Program: The monthly meet-ups have been quite an undertaking for our chapter leaders. They are not just a meeting, but a coordinated mini program for our members and something we have come to be very proud of. While at least three a year are purely for journalistic networking purposes, the remaining monthly meet-ups support local journalists with job hunting, fresh education and multimedia training.

Program Topic: Covering Homelessness

Description of Program: SPJ South Florida supports an annual event called Will Write For Food. Over Labor Day weekend, 2011, 20 student journalists from around the nation – hailing from Florida to Alaska - will visit the COSAC Johnny McCormick's Shelter in Hollywood, Fla. The shelter, which houses up to 150 of the homeless that government shelters can't handle or refuse to take, is also home a homeless newspaper. More information: www.journoterrorist.com/homeless

Program Topic: Journalism Conference Giveaway

Description of Program: We recently sponsored a Facebook giveaway and shared four tickets to the TEDxPoynter Giveaway with our members.

Other Programs/Activities:

SUPPORTING STUDENT JOURNALISTS

Did your chapter hold any kind of activity for student journalists this year? Yes

Description of Program: Our chapter has an annual scholarship program (\$2,500) as well as several events and programs to support student journalism. Since there is no student chapter locally, this year we initiated a new student member board seat. The student does not have a vote in board matters, but is involved in all board meetings and his/her opinion is sought and welcomed. The student board member who ran and won this past November, said he ran because of events we supported the year prior. Still a member of our board, he then went on to run for and be elected to the SPJ National Board as one of the two student board members.

Scholarship: <http://www.spjsoufla.net/2012/03/2012scholarshipwinner/>

CHAPTER FUND RAISING

Did your chapter hold any fundraising activities this year? Yes

Successful Fund-raising Programs: Hosted annually in June, the Sunshine State Awards Banquet honors all the finalists for our Florida award program. The chapter also uses this event and the awards as a fundraiser. We raise money by entry fees for the contest and for the banquet. While most of the cost of the banquet ticket goes to fund the event, we have made a profit in the past and it is something we strive to continue every year.

CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

Methods of Communication: Our chapter website is updated regularly, and we send emails monthly - if not more frequently - to our membership. We also keep our members abreast of events, programs as well as local and national via our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

<https://www.facebook.com/SPJSoFla>

<http://twitter.com/#!/spjsoufla>

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Comments:

TREASURER'S REPORT