

## **AAJA National Advisory Board Meeting - Spring 2016**

March 19, 2016

Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas

Paul Cheung began the meeting at 9:15 a.m., PST

### **Roll call:**

**Officers present:** President Paul Cheung, SVP Michelle Lee, VP of Journalism Programs Yvonne Leow, Treasurer Shawn Nicole Wong, Secretary Nicole Dungca

**National advisory board members present:** Grace Wong, Wes Nakama, Frank Shyong, Matt Stevens, Esther Gim, Julianne Chiaet, Shirley Lew Ng, David Limm, Pamela Wu, Kevin Lee, Donna Tam, Audrey Carlsen, Venice Buhain, Angela Chen

**Proxies present:** Nicole Vas (Arizona), Sean Lim (Asia), Lauren Hardie (Florida), Seung Min Kim (DC)

**Absent:** Amy Wang, Oanh Ha, Blessing Waung, Nancy Yang, Joy Lim Nakrin, Frank Vinluan, Peter Wong, Jane Lee, Scott B. Wong, Marian Liu, Niala Boodho (VP)

**Staff present:** Executive director Kathy Chow, AAJA program associate Justin Seiter, AAJA program associate Daniel Garcia

**Other AAJA members present:** AAJA at-large member/Las Vegas convention chair Sally Ho, New York chapter president Philip Yam, Sacramento chapter president Sandy Louey

Kathy and Paul explained the responsibilities of national advisory board representatives, and the structure of the organization.

Kathy explained the channels of communications, such as whom the board representatives should contact for guidance.

Justin talked about important bylaws, such as explaining elections and chapter censuses. Paul explained that you should look at bylaws to make sure you don't add positions that you don't need.

Kathy talked about 10 basic responsibilities of the board member, including making sure they understand the mission of AAJA.

Members were told that if there are issues with the National office, they should go to Paul.

Board members are told they need to do at least one event a year, whether it's a media access workshop, a talk from a media executive, or some sort of educational component.

As a local board, they must meet twice a year: Could be via phone or Google Hangout. It's hard to keep a chapter alive if you don't meet at least twice.

Kathy highlighted other limitations, such as not using chapter funds to buy alcohol, and not accepting money from tobacco, adult entertainment, or governments.

Board members should donate at least \$10 a year because organizations are well-regarded for having 100 percent participation for fundraising on a board.

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Kathy continued talking about responsibilities. The primary responsibility for advisory board representatives is to relay the information from the meetings back to the chapters.

Nicole, Kathy, and Paul talked about governing board members and how some people may want to join as one. Kathy says she can coach governing board member and help them grow as leaders.

The members then had a quiz on what they had learned, brushing up on when they would need insurance for AAJA meetups, and other issues.

Shawn went through key finance terms and gave a quick financial literacy lessons, such as what issues are included in financial reports. She said that National wants communication from treasurers in local chapters about required documentation.

She then presented the budget and how to read it.

SVP Michelle Lee entered the meeting around 11:30 a.m.

In response to a question by Frank, Kathy explained the new News Desert project.

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Paul presented his president's report, and said this year is about growth and alignment. He talked about how the lack of a UNITY conference helped lead to a chance with a new partnership with other Asian American groups.

We will need to elect new AAJA national president, VP of Civic Engagement and national treasurer during the summer.

Kathy talked about how we plan on inviting the Vivek Murthy, the surgeon general, again since he had raved about being here. Michelle and Paul shared that Melvin Mar was also impressed by the convention.

For the convention's silent auction, Randall Yip will be the point of contact. Each chapter will need to secure high-end items for the auction, and they should not be in the leadership structure.

Pam talked about Media Institute, and how it started at the Washington DC convention. Kathy then talked about News Deserts and the objective of the project: to present criminal justice coverage in areas where there has been a lack of in-depth coverage. It will examine the impact of incarceration, juvenile justice system, and intersection of poverty and homelessness as it ties into criminal justice. The goal is for \$6 million for three years, but AAJA's project in Nebraska cost just \$200,000.

New Mexico was chosen because it's majority minority state and ranked consistently as the highest state with drug overdoses. It also has a lot of tribal communities, and Native American youth are incarcerated at higher rates in juvenile justice system there. Paul, Kathy, the head of IRE, and Abe Kwok went on listening tour and saw receptive audience from journalists there.

The Santa Fe New Mexican's leaders said they would provide space for the reporters chosen for project.

AAJA is hoping to use this as a way to build on getting funders, particularly through original content from the organization. Kathy wants to launch in the fall 2016, with five people based in New Mexico: an editor, 2 reporters, a data specialist reporter, and a multimedia report. They will be working with the University of Missouri, the organization that will technically employ them.

Pam talked about leading a Media Institute in New Mexico. She said there are a lot of concerns about Native populations, drugs, crime, and recidivism, and coverage that isn't culturally conscious.

Frank wanted to know why Kellogg recommended New Mexico. Kathy said Kellogg has marked it as a "priority state," and it's a state with less reporting about criminal justice issues. It's a big state to fund because of poverty, but there aren't many major industries. Kathy said there is a deep thirst by community for more journalism. One of the goals is to hire local, and make sure that there are diverse reporters on the ground there.

Kathy said that the reporters chosen will have at least five years of reporting experience, and won't necessarily need investigative reporting experience. Kathy said the biggest piece will be recruiting the right reporters and editors. As the project develops, she encourages people to recommend reporters.

Michelle gave the first senior vice president report, explaining the affinity group structure. The leaders of these different groups can become "directors" of those groups. The first groups approved were groups that had already existed for a long time, such as the sports task force and the freelance group.

She said she wanted to look at chapter structure, to see if the current structure is working.

Wes gave a quick update on the sports task force: Carolyn Hong at ESPN drives most of the action in the group. The group took off after the first meeting in DC. In SF, there were several events, including mentor mixers and another off-site event. They created an AI Young scholarship, and they're adding a new one this year. He said people formed the group in response to dwindling programming for sports journalists.

Michelle explained that the affinity group structure makes the organization more nimble, so that we can create groups as more jobs or trends become more commonplace. There is a representative from each group that is participating in programming process, so that they can help advise what sessions are included in convention.

Shawn presented the treasurer's report and went through the 2015 year-end financial statements.

Our national audit has been approved, but we still need to finish the chapter audit. Shawn said it's important that chapter reports for the chapter audit are submitted on time. If reports are late, auditors can't start audit and we are charged extra fees.

The next deadline for chapter reports is July 31st, and that covers January through the end of June 2016. Those reports include all the chapter's monthly bank statements, reimbursement forms (emails, etc, documentation) with original receipts, income received and deposit slips.

She said we're in the process of updated our investment policy so that we can get better returns. Paul said we have a healthy cash reserve, and we have met the goal of having a six month reserve.

Shawn also said she is looking for a new investment committee in 2016.

## **BREAK**

Yvonne and Michelle then gave updates on convention. The theme is Power of One, to help represent a historic meeting for Asian Americans across the country.

Yvonne and Michelle have been thinking about what AAJA is and what members get out of AAJA. What does AAJA mean? We are trying to balance between identity and skills.

They presented the new Power of One logo, which is on Slack. Seung Min wanted to know if we would put AAJA on it, and Paul said it will eventually have a lot of the information for convention.

Yvonne and Michelle presented some of the candid convos, and longer workshops, such as how to cover news events such as San Bernardino.

Yvonne said they're trying to make things more interactive, where people are talking to an audience. We want to limit speakers to only being at one session, and limiting to three speakers.

Yvonne talked about lightning talks, and Frank mentioned adding food blogging.

Kathy talked about NBC becoming a media sponsor and how they want to do private interviews for hiring.

Matt asked about how many people are divided among different mediums: About 30 percent are in newspapers, and another 30 percent are in TV. Radio and freelance has gone up, according to current numbers.

Angela talked about workshops that she would want, such as branding for tv personalities.

Justin talked about Silent Auction and Expo, and said that he is hopeful that the organization can hit the budget revenue of \$45,000.

There will be a new schedule for the expo: Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

There's a potential jump in attendance with APIA vote partnerships, and we're raising booth rates 10 to 20 percent and having a corporate membership bonus.

Justin said he is considering mobile bidding, instead of paper bid sheets for silent auction. That would give us higher bid rates, and streamlined check-out.

Kathy talked about presidential town hall: We are having the presidential town hall forum in the Colosseum. Caesar's is donating the space and audio visual components for it. We're looking for one of the major networks to stream it. APIA is working to have viewing parties.

AAJA already has direct communication with the RNC and DNC, and the Clinton campaign is aware of the event. The confirmation is likely to come after the conventions in July, but the campaigns already know the event is happening and important.

Kathy talked about the reception and said it was an opportunity for MGM to have a role with AAJA. They wanted to host the night and reception.

Paul motioned to adjourn for the day. Michelle seconded and the motion was approved by all those present.

### **AAJA National Advisory Board Meeting - Spring 2016**

March 20, 2016

Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas

Paul began the meeting at 9:05 a.m. PST

#### **Roll call:**

**Officers present:** President Paul Cheung, SVP Michelle Lee, VP of Journalism Programs Yvonne Leow, Treasurer Shawn Nicole Wong, Secretary Nicole Dungca

**National advisory board members present:** Grace Wong, Frank Shyong, Matt Stevens, Esther Gim, Julianne Chiaet, Shirley Lew Ng, David Limm, Pamela Wu, Kevin Lee, Audrey Carlsen, Venice Buhain, Angela Chen

**Proxies present:** Nicole Vas (Arizona), Sean Lim (Asia), Lauren Hardie (Florida), Seung Min Kim (DC)

**Absent advisory board members:** Amy Wang, Oanh Ha, Blessing Waung, Nancy Yang, Joy Lim Nakrin, Frank Vinluan, Peter Wong, Jane Lee, Scott B. Wong, Marian Liu, Niala Boodho (VP), Wes Nakama

**Staff present:** Executive director Kathy Chow, AAJA program associate Justin Seiter, AAJA program associate Daniel Garcia

**Other AAJA members present:** AAJA at-large member/Las Vegas convention chair Sally Ho, New York chapter president Philip Yam, Sacramento chapter president Sandy Louey

As the VP of Journalism Programs, Yvonne talked about J Camp, which will be taken over by Arelis Hernandez. Yvonne said we wanted JCamp to be an important program for our pipeline.

Yvonne talked about Voices, and how Ruth has been developing a succession program for future leaders. She said she knows that many leaders get burnt out, and it's on all of the members to continue thinking about succession plans and make sure that leaders aren't overburdened.

Yvonne said Ruth mentioned having a database to track all of the alumni from these programs.

Paul talked about ELP, and how the next iteration of ELP is i-Con. They're hosting the 21st class in CUNY. It will be different by placing it in a university setting, and changing ELP to include non-AAJA members.

They wanted to open it up because a lot of our sponsors and personal mentors want to make sure that we have an inclusive environment. When you step into a leadership role, diversity should be a priority and we can use it as a foundation.

Paul said he wants to focus on power and rebranding, doing case studies and doing roleplay so that people can identify who are their allies, and detractors. Each of the participants will be matched up with someone in New York.

Yvonne talked about how the industry has a gap in leadership training. Poynter has had hundreds of applications, and showed us that people want this opportunity. AAJA has more than two decades of experience, and it's an area where we can grow.

Sally asked whether it would ever go back to happening simultaneously with the convention, and Paul said it probably won't. Because so much is going on at convention, it distracts people.

Yvonne closed by asking for ideas for potential opportunities for programs. She also talked about the Journalists of Color Slack.

Frank and Matt talked about the difficulties of setting up the Media Access workshop without local contacts. Paul said that the workshop was moved to Saturday for better turnout, but Matt said it was difficult for Los Angeles leaders to coordinate for the workshop because there is no local Las Vegas chapter.

Shawn said she was pleased with the turnout for for the workshop in New York, but noted that the local chapter stepped in and was able to connect them with key community organizers. Paul said that National will take responsibility for inviting people, and the chapters charged with Media Access will need to focus on logistics.

Shirley gave a quick update from the Freelancers: The Facebook group hasn't quite reached 100, but the affinity group was approved and introduced in SF. There was a good turnout, with 10 to 12 people. They're getting to know each other, and they now want to create an online forum.

Nicole talked about governing board members: We are seeking two more at-large members for a two-year term for the 11-person board that votes on major board

decisions and manages the \$1.2 million budget. Shirley, Lauren and Julianne expressed interest.

There will also be a new National President, National Treasurer, and per new structure, a VP in Civic Engagement. Nominations will be open in June, voting begins in July, and the winners will be announced during convention.

Michelle talked about an AAJA code of conduct after an incident during the convention last summer. We wanted to formulate a way to react to situations with misconduct. The current code of conduct has been vetted by lawyers and AAJA top leadership. The code of conduct will be used organization-wide, such as with local events. We've laid out what matters and how soon we should look for concerns, etc. It outlines who to contact with problems at events.

Michelle talked about the AAJA Policy Handbook idea, which are intended to make sure we are consistent as an organization and assures a smooth transition when leadership steps down.

Frank asked about discounts for first-time attendees, and Paul said that could be an idea for individual workshops.

Justin talked about new membership software and a possible change from Member Suite to Timberlake. Sean said the new software is more streamlined, but still a bit too complex and out of line with trends.

Paul talked about assessing chapter leadership and the kind of skills they needed to have. The activity was supposed to create a strategy to target a specific problem that the organization frequently runs into.

We focused on four points: Chapter structure, fundraising, leadership, and membership engagement.

Shawn said that LA has an influx of fresh new members but haven't had experience with them. Frank said they have helpful members, but some didn't have a clear vision. Shawn added that a couple of members were burnt out.

Lauren said that Florida needed help with prioritizing which problems to target. Florida is really spread out, leadership is burning out. In order to attack any one of those, we need to start with leadership and possibly membership engagement.

## LUNCH BREAK

Jim Park from the Asian American Real Estate Association gave a quick presentation on his association, which is the largest Asian membership-based organization in this country. They have 15,000 members. They have two main conferences.

They launched a "No Other" campaign, which focuses on how home ownership by Asian Americans is often ignored. In the US census, they are counted as "other," though they should be a standalone category.

Sandy and Frank asked about how he gets his numbers for Asian homeownership w/o the census counting Asians. Jim said there are annual surveys, but the quarterly surveys

do not include Asian American homeownership, which leaves them out of the dialogue for making policy.

Paul asked how AAJA can help equip the membership to tell their story better. Is it something they need help with?

Jim said that they do need help. He said he wants everyone to consider writing about it to force a local dialogue.

Vida Chan Lin, the president and co-founder of Asian Community Development Council, also talked about engaging the local community, but how it is important to reach out to small ethnic media. A lot of the small papers are struggling because they need advertisers. She wants AAJA to help reach out to local media.

Paul asked about the power of the Asian American community. Vida said that many Asian voters don't know the issues, don't know who to vote for, and don't have time. A lot of her work has been about educating voters to say their voices are important.

Shawn asked about how she has gotten businesses active. Vida said she is still looking for the best tools, but that she works on gathering information issues that most affect them.

Kevin asked about pitching for the Colosseum. She said she reached out to MGM in 1999, asking why they weren't supporting Asians. She said she has learned to ask after MGM said she has never reached out. They didn't want a debate, but a town hall.

Yvonne asked about gender bias that she believes she has encountered. Vida said it can be hard for female Asians to step up in this town. When it comes to the community, she has a hard time trying to reach out - they ask about agendas. If males are asking the same question, they have an easier time.

Matt asked about the biggest issues they are facing and want to resolve.

Vida said K-12 education is important, and being able to make Las Vegas a town that is able to engage children.

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Paul then talked about chapter sustainability, and how there are problems with developing a regular pipeline.

Julianne wanted to know the best ways to get people involved if they have too many members.

Nicole Vas asked about the opposite problem: How there aren't enough people to get involved. Esther said she has a quantifiable goal of having 5 out of the 18 in her chapter to renew, and notes that even two people on her board haven't renewed.

David said that the Philadelphia chapter sometimes runs out of people for leadership roles. He worries about turnover and succession planning.

We then discussed issues to tackle:

- Succession Planning

- Renewal
- Reengaging previously active members
- New member recruitment
- Geographic barriers

Angela said that geography for Texas chapter presents unique problem: Events are often in Houston, but members in other areas can't come.

Lauren said Asia has done a good job keeping people engaged even though it's over 11 countries.

Paul then held a human-centered design workshop that would address some of our common problems. For example, one group talked about succession planning -- and how a chapter board leader could find a way to attract new leadership candidates in a way that makes him feel like the board is stable.

Paul made a motion to close the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Michelle seconded, and everyone present adjourned.

### **AAJA Governing Board Meeting - Spring 2016**

March 21, 2016

Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas

Paul called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. PST

#### **Roll Call:**

**Officers present:** President Paul Cheung, SVP Michelle Lee, VP of Journalism Programs Yvonne Leow, Treasurer Shawn Nicole Wong, Secretary Nicole Dungca

**Governing board members present:** Esther Gim, Matt Stevens

**Absent governing board members:** Joy Lim Nakrin, Niala Boodhoo

**Staff present:** Executive director Kathy Chow

Paul talked about general voting to the new governing board members, such as the methods of approving such votes and other legal issues.

Shawn introduced the revised investment policy and explained how we are redrafting the investment policy. She explained how she received advice from Rod Nakamoto, a financial advisor referred to her by Denise Poon, a former governing board member.

The new policy will enable, rather than constrain, our financial stewards, according to Shawn. It's not an aggressive strategy, but it's also not conservative.

The investment committee from last year reviewed it three times, and the governing board from last year has reviewed it twice. Shawn wanted us to approve what we have, so we can move forward: securing the investment committee and hiring a new financial manager.

Matt asked what securing the investment committee meant, and Paul suggested having a person from the advisory and the governing board join the committee.

Matt asked about how we decided on the strategy, and Shawn said she talked with Mr. Nakamoto. Paul then explained the previous board's strategy with the endowment.

Paul asked about when we want to have an open RFP, and Shawn said she would like to approve the policy statement today before going further.

She also said she wanted 4 to 5 people to help with the investment committee. The investment committee would need to review the investment policy, and then help draft the RFP for a new financial manager. In terms of a timetable, she said she would not like to wait until convention. She said she wants to draft an RFP in April and May, and send it out in May. The deadline should be June.

Paul said the investment committee should review the RFP, and interview the candidates for a new financial manager (which can include our current financial manager and Mr. Nakamoto).

Yvonne asked if there are term-limits (2 years), and if they need to be in AAJA. Paul said that policy should mandate that it be a 2-year commitment that is appointed by treasurer.

Kathy suggested that the committee be made up of one Chapter President, one advisory board member, one governing board member, an outsider, the executive director, and our financial consultant.

Paul said we should have that in place by April 30, with an action draft RFP by May 15.

Paul said that it could be helpful for the financial advisor to meet the governing board and advisory board. Shawn agreed.

Shawn turned to the actual policy statement, and said she wanted to call to attention that Niala had asked if there was a standard for target spending rate. Rod said there is no real standard -- but if there is a volatile market, a lower percentage is preferred for stability.

Paul suggested approving 3 percent, and we can amend the policy to add the current rate.

Michelle asked about what flexibility we would have to change the percentage.

Shawn and Michelle said it was a target spending rate.

Yvonne asked about similar non-profits, and Shawn said that he did not give specific examples.

We discussed what the target spending rate actually meant, and what we believe is appropriate. Paul hoped that the investment committee would have a narrowly defined position.

Shawn also wanted to highlight the exclusions for investments. Michelle suggested including language about conflicts of interest and volunteered to work with Kathy and Shawn.

Paul asked about why real estate investments are included, and we agreed to delete a provision excluding real estate investments.

We went through the entire list and decided that we were comfortable with the rest.

Shawn made a motion to approve investment policy statement with the understanding that it is a fluid document and that the governing board and investment committee will review it annually.

Nicole seconded the motion.

Yvonne wanted to know if it was meant to have an expected rate of return. Shawn said that she will review it and will help the investment committee determine the metrics of success.

Motion approved by all those present.

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We talked about some of the biggest concerns from members, and Paul said many mentioned sustainability.

Michelle said that some concerns are also an effect of where we are in the industry. Older people are switching careers or getting booted out, and younger leaders aren't yet ready to take charge.

Yvonne said it feels that chapter presidents feel like they need more training, guidance and structure. The transition to become a chapter president has little guidance, and she said we should unify chapter leaders to give them a better support system.

Paul said we should try to manage expectations for middle markets, which are getting gutted by the industry.

Paul said the chapter system seems to be broken.

Yvonne asked what the chapters are supposed to give their members. Esther said that Detroit, a smaller chapter, is trying to get back to the basics: holding an educational event every year, etc.

Paul said we should provide templates for easy things for people to do, such as a leadership salon, etc. Paul said we need to work on a benchmark for success: if a chapter can do one event with ten people, then it can be a way of success. Other metrics could include a membership renewal rate, striving for 85 percent renewal rate, etc.

We should give them a template and give them a way to self-evaluate.

Matt says it can be a way of making goals more manageable: 85% renewal rate, one event, fundraising \$450. We want to boil it down for people and make sure it's not a burden.

Paul said we could have a simple checklist during the summer.

Tom and Abe would be valuable to craft best practices. Shawn said making templates for events would also be helpful for chapters with transitioning leadership.

Esther said easier planning events would be helpful for smaller chapters.

Yvonne pointed out that chapters should have Michelle (SVP) as the point person to contact with problems, and that should be clearly outlined in the documents.

For the breakout committees, we identified point people to help iterate the next version of the events/strategies formed during Sunday's meeting.

Shawn asked about chapter reports and whether it's appropriate for us to research an online banking solution: if all chapters are on an online banking system so that Glenn could log on and access those monthly statements and receipts.

Kathy said some chapters may have concerns about managing their own accounts.

Yvonne asked if we were evaluating board structures. Paul said we should start that conversation.

Paul made a motion to initiate the process of making their local and national banking system for the organization more modern and unified for the purpose of auditing and financial stability. The motion would direct Shawn and Glenn to explore online banking possibilities and report back to the board with a recommendation.

Nicole seconded the motion.

All voted to approve.

Paul said he worried about a Saturday advisory board meeting because people may not be able to get the extra day off.

Yvonne suggested asking advisory board members if they will be able to meet for 8 hours on Wednesday. Paul said we should start at 10 a.m. and go until 5 p.m. and on Sunday, we would have two extra hours for advisory board. The two hours on Sunday will mostly concern updates from programs.

Michelle made a motion to go into closed session for personnel matters.

Michelle then made a motion to get out of closed session.

Yvonne seconded, and all approved.

Matt then made a motion to adjourn.

Esther seconded, and all approved at 12:19 p.m.

**ELECTRONIC VOTES:**

**April 14, 2016**

**Via Slack, governing board channel**

Kathy Chow told governing board members that the National Association of Asian American Professionals would like to buy booths at the expo. We would need a board vote to approve this because several of the booths could include government entities, and AAJA does not accept funding from government sources under our policy.

Kathy let us know that NAAAP introduced the CIA, FBI, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and several other government agencies to prior job fairs.

Michelle wanted to know if the expo hall would be hosted with APIA vote, which could bring in more journalism organizations.

She said the full list concerned her because of the perception it creates: we don't want to be seen as being cozy with government agencies.

Kathy clarified that there is no co-branding with APIA Vote on the job fair. APIA Vote is only co-sponsoring the Town Hall.

Nicole said that she has concerns because the list of organizations that could be included almost looked like a list of beats that many news organizations would cover. Some of the agencies have also been protested for human rights violations.

Michelle wanted to know whether refusing this offer would hurt the relationship with NAAAP, and Niala wanted to know how much money it would cost us.

Kathy said we don't have a relationship with the organization currently, and that we would selling 20 booths for \$35,000 (a discount from \$40,000). Matt wanted to know badly the organization would need the \$35,000.

Yvonne also wanted to know about the downsides of government organizations recruiting at the same job fair. She said she we need to think about how we define ourselves as allies/partners with other organizations, and that she sees value in collaborating with NAAAP.

Esther said she believes it could open a can of worms.

Kathy said she is about 90 percent positive that they could sell all 65 booths without NAAAAP. She said that it probably wouldn't affect the relationship with the organization. She also pointed out that NABJ and NAHJ have allowed the CIA to exhibit at their conventions, and NABJ has taken money from oil and defense contractors.

Nicole asked the board to consider what value the booths would have to convention-goers.

Shawn also said that we should think of the perceived value.

Michelle made a motion to decline the partnerships, and Esther seconded the motion. All voted to in favor of the motion, except for Niala, who did not have internet access at the time.

**July 6, 2016**  
**via Slack governing board member channel**

Kathy asked the board for permission to pursue site visit and negotiations for the 2017 convention. She said they are looking at Philadelphia to be on the East Coast. Michelle Lee made a motion to allow Kathy to pursue the site visit. Esther Gim seconded.

All voted yes on the motion.

Paul also made a motion to extend the pre-registration rate of \$350 to all local Las Vegas journalists. Shawn seconded the motion.

All voted yes on the motion.

Julianne also wanted to dedicate a convention table for a specific cause, such as a bone marrow registration drive. She shared information on how the issue affects the Asian community, such as how 28 percent of all Asians are unable to find a match for a donor.

Yvonne, Esther, Shawn, Julianne, Niala and Matt voted yes on the idea, so Paul said there were enough votes to move the idea forward. Lauren and Michelle also voted yes after Paul tallied the votes.

**July 27, 2016**  
**via Slack governing board member channel**

Michelle asked board members whether we wanted to allow speakers on Friday to be able to choose a day pass for any other day since the Town Hall would make them miss out on programming. She said she wanted guidance from the board before moving forward.

Matt said the speakers are doing the organization a huge service, and said he would even give them a full convention pass. At a minimum, he said he would give them day passes for whatever day they would choose.

Shawn, Yvonne, and Lauren also voted to do so.

Niala wanted to know more information about how much it would cost, and Lauren said she would agree about that.

Esther also wanted to vote yes to give the speakers day passes.

Paul asked if we should see how many speakers it will affect.

Nicole said she believes a free one day pass is a good idea, and that we should talk about free registrations in the future.

Michelle noted that such a problem wouldn't happen for at least three years since it was a specific problem related to the Town Hall.