

March 13 Meeting Minutes — IRE Member Services Committee

Present: Hyuntaek Lee, Emma Black, Josh Hinkle, Deb Nelson, Amy Eaton Jared Kofsky, Amy Judson, Nicole Vap, Tibisay Zea, Daniela Porat, Maia Rosenfeld

IRE staff in attendance: Amy Eaton

Summary:

Alejandra moved to approve January's meeting minutes. Josh Hinkle seconded. The minutes were approved by a voice vote. We also discussed sharing ideas for IRE26 and the new resource site, which was unveiled at NICAR. There were no reported issues or concerns. Amy said the Academic Committee partnered with a local TV station at NICAR to take 15 students to tour WTHR. Staff got a positive response and they are looking to do it again. We discussed whether the Member Services Committee wants to work with them. Questions to consider: Timing — how to schedule the outing so students don't miss sessions. Cost — how to pay for transportation to get the students to and from the conference to the station? No decisions were made.

Applications for the IRE Board open up next month. Josh encouraged members of the committee to run.

Quick updates from Subcommittee chairs

- Retention/Recruitment Subcommittee (Chair Deb Nelson | Members: Josie, Jared)
 - The subcommittee is crafting emails and social media copy for the membership drive, which launches on April 13. Josh will send out the lapsed member list and everyone is encouraged to send out personalized emails during the three-week drive, which ends on the last day of early registration for IRE26. Among the items to promote to members will be IRE's new partnership with Visualping. Amy said she'd update the website with information on how to claim that new member benefit.
- Mentorship Subcommittee (Chair: Emily Le Coz | Members: Jamie, Tibisay)
 - The subcommittee will focus on revamping the online mentor platform once IRE's contract with journalism mentors runs out. The staff is working on creating IRE's own online platform. Josh said it'll be a bit of an experimentation. More TK. Note that Emily Le Coz resigned from the subcommittee on March 13. Andy can step in during the interim until we find a new person.
- Meetups Subcommittee (Chair Andy Lehren | Members: Laura, Maia)

- Laura is working on an IRE meetup in Seattle. It's scheduled on Wednesday, April 8. She got SPJ's executive board to team up again. They'll contribute up to \$250 for the first round of drinks for attendees.
- There will be a New York City meetup on Tuesday April 21 in Midtown. Publicity for the event will begin in early April.
- Andy said he hosted a virtual meetup for all IRE members around the country and around the world. Josh said it was successful and focused on the international community. The committee will try to host more virtual meetups.
 - Toronto has been having in-person meetups regularly and Andy is working with Canadian members on a virtual one. He's also pushing for one in D.C. and one in New York in April. Josh is planning one in May in Austin.
- Shoutouts: Jared said the mini-conference in NYC earlier this year sold out the night before the conference. Maia said the Philly meetup was very successful.
- Josh said he worked with staff to revise the Meetups Guide to be more inclusive, tighten up language and add virtual meetup components. The new guide can be found on ire.org under the Membership tab. The direct link is: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DjHa7dH2n_NsLPfwJe5D9VU3-Z8jXW1PbcRmW9DIP88/edit?tab=t.0
- Management Subcommittee (Chair: Kat Stafford | Members: Josh, Nicole)
 - Josh said the management master class at NICAR went well. It was a condensed version (two hours instead of 3), it was free and focused on navigating AI. Twenty-seven people registered for it.
 - The managers and editors of color initiative is gaining momentum. More TK.
 - Kat is aiming to have one management webinar before IRE26. She's also planning a master class at the conference.
- International Subcommittee: (Chair: Paroma Soni | Members: Tag, Kamara)
 - The subcommittee is working on creating online resources for the international community. We discussed the need for description on those resources ahead of the member drive launches so we can promote.
- Training Subcommittee (Chair: Alejandra | Members: Daniela and Andy)
 - We are on hold, awaiting requests from the staff.