



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Margarita de la Vega-Hurtado
Moctesuma Esparza*
Evy Ledesma Galan*
(Treasurer)
Alexis Garcia
Evangeline Griego
Jose Martinez, Jr.*
(Secretary)
Neyda Martinez
Bienvenida Matias*
(Chair)
Frances Negrón- Muntaner*
David Ortiz*
Rick Ramirez
Elaine Romero

*Executive Committee

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Monica Gil
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Walt Disney Company
Cynthia Lopez
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The Hanson Institute

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Kathryn F. Galán
Executive Director
Octavio Marin
Signature Programs
Daniel Carrera
Membership Coordinator
Mateo Nagassi
Production Manager

Affiliate Member, NCLR

Board of Directors meeting took place Saturday and Sunday, February 15 – 16, 2003.

Present: Board: George Cisneros, Moctesuma Esparza, Vangie Griego, Cynthia López, Frances Negrón Muntaner, Sandra Perez
Staff: Kathryn Galan, Claudia Casillas

Absent: Bonnie Abaunza, Greg Gomez, Chon Noriega,
Guests: Maria Escobedo (NY), David Ortiz (LA), Edwin Pagan (NY). Guests were invited to participate in all discussions except executive session and could not vote on motions.

Greg Gomez's and Chon Noriega's voting proxies were held by Moctesuma Esparza and Cynthia López, respectively.

López called the meeting to order and asked that all in attendance introduce themselves and give a summary of recent efforts on behalf of NALIP.

Conference update

Galan and Adam reported that registration is slightly up from last year. At the time of this meeting, there were a total of 180 paid registrants, 108 scholarship recipients, 100 speakers and guests, and 25 volunteers. Attendance is expected to be over 325.

The opening reception Thursday night will kick-off the four-day event, where local luminaries will welcome our members to San Antonio. Awards will be presented to Ricardo Montalban (Lifetime Achievement Media Advocacy), Eduardo Moreno (Lifetime Achievement Independent Producer), and Elizabeth Avellan (Outstanding Achievement in Producing) during dinner and luncheon presentations. Galan informed that due to a family emergency, Elizabeth Avellan will not be present to accept her award. Due to their ailing health, neither Ricardo Montalban nor Eduardo Moreno will be here in person to accept. Cisneros reported that we will have a live satellite feed and both Eduardo Moreno and Ricardo Montalban will address our participants from Los Angeles during the gala dinner. At the request of Elizabeth Avellan, Commissioner Tom Copeland will accept on her behalf during the opening reception. Additionally, Galan reported that due to some last-minute speaker cancellations, some sessions would need to be restructured and perhaps board members should fill in as moderators.

Conference budget & Financial update

Galan reported that at present, actual 2002 conference expenses stand at about \$181,000. Cisneros stated that due to assistance from Lisa Navarrete at NCLR, the Plaza San Antonio hotel waived the prerequisite of a deposit; Galan said the full payment of about \$112,000 will be due thirty days after services are rendered. Lopez asked whether our year end fundraising goals we would meet our projected organizational and conference budget, or did we have a need to mobilize and increase fundraising. Galan assessed that we don't foresee a deficit if all of the institutional pledges are received.

As at October 31, NALIP's cash on hand is \$76,251.

Esparza urged that we should pursue an HBO-NALIP partnership similar to what the Black Filmmakers Foundation has. While HBO Latino and HBO New York Communications has been extremely supportive to NALIP. We would like to increase our visibility and partnership. **Action:** After the conference, a group of NALIP officers, will meet with HBO executives in Los Angeles to explore that possibility.

Membership report

Casillas gave a detailed report of the current NALIP membership. There are 445 paid national members. The majority are concentrated in three states: 250 in California, 79 in New York, and 44 in Texas. Galan mentioned that national made a concerted effort this year to reach out to all lapsed members, with good results. However, there are still 166 lapsed members throughout the country who have not paid dues to renew their expired membership.

Casillas presented board members a binder containing copies of each piece of correspondence, mail and email, that has been distributed by the national office. Lopez asked that we continue the upkeep of this binder as record of national's communication efforts. Clear communication via national to its members has increased tremendously – we will continue this trend.

Programs report

Galan gave details of national's programming activities. Recently, NALIP presented several workshops in conjunction with sister organizations. Together with the IDA, we delivered "*How to Fund and Market Your Documentary Film*" in New York on October 12. Seventy-eight people attended the all-day event. "*Crafting Your Package*", a two-day workshop planned for September 28 & 29 in Los Angeles had to be postponed due to low sign-ups. It will be rescheduled after it is presented in Miami on December 7 & 8 in conjunction with IFP-Miami.

Galan unveiled plans for the "*Latino Writers Lab*", scheduled for March 14-16 in New York City. The workshop will be announced during the conference; registration flyers have been inserted into each conference participant bag.

Galan asserted that NALIP will continue to bring relevant programs to regional members who don't have these resources available to them. Cisneros suggested that we do a "*Crafting Your Package*" in Texas during the annual South by Southwest event.

NALIP 2003 location

Negron-Muntaner gave details of her findings in Puerto Rico, a possible future site for the annual conference. She stated that Puerto Rico would be a great place to hold the conference; however, there would be some challenges. The major challenge for NALIP would be air travel. Esparza mentioned that it would be difficult to convince industry executives to fly that far. The advantages would be that we could raise local money, get good press, and have an opportunity to build community there. Lopez and Esparza stated their preference for keeping the conference in the states. Further, Esparza recommends that we decide on one city and return there every year in order to build strong relationships with hotels and local vendors.

Nominating committee and Board elections

Escobedo reported that besides strong solicitation efforts, only six nominations for new board officers were submitted. The nominating committee, consisting of Cynthia Lopez, Kathryn Galan, Maria Escobedo (indie filmmaker/member), Bienvenida Matias (member at large), and Iris Morales (indie filmmaker/member) selected three candidates for consideration: Edwin Pagan, Sonia Gonzales, and James Blancarte.

At the time of this meeting, James Blancarte had not submitted a detailed letter of intent, but one was pending. Esparza stated that since a few executives attending the conference have mentioned their interest in serving on

the NALIP board, they should be asked to submit an official letter before the end of the conference for a board vote. Evy Ledesma Galan (director of the CineSol Latino Film Festival), nominated by George Cisneros to maintain and increase Texas and festival representation on the NALIP Board, submitted her letter and resume on Saturday, November 9.

Motion by Sandra Perez to accept slate proposed by the Nominating committee to invite Edwin Pagan and Sonia Gonzalez to be board members, Mocte second. Unanimous yes.

Motion by Perez: To breather the election process until we collect letters and resumes for Rick Ramirez (Phil Roman Entertainment), David Ortiz (Universal Pictures), and Carolyn Caldera (Caldera-DiFanti). Second: Esparza Vote: unanimous yes.

Lopez expressed the need to have a Vice Chair post on the board. Moreover, she would like to see the formation of the following committees that should have their own Chair:

- Finance Committee
- Mentorship Committee
- Programming Committee
- Communications Committee
- Advocacy Committee
- Conference Committee
- Strategic Plan Committee

She noted that not all chairs of committees need to be members of the board of directors. She reminded everyone that she was chair of the fundraising committee for one year before being considered on the board.

Esparza urged that NALIP needs to research candidates and form an Advisory Board or Honorary Board of Trustees. Negron-Muntaner pressed that the bylaws be amended to include a precise policy on board composition, elections, suspensions, and transitions.

Action: Negron-Muntaner will research the specific language and write an amendment to the bylaws by December 1. The board will then vote and elect new officers by December 15, and Lopez will exit the Chair post by December 31. Negron-Muntaner and Sandra Perez are considering the Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Advocacy update

Esparza spoke about the activities and update on the National Latino Media Council, and the impact it will have on NALIP.

Communications and Website report

Galan reported that a new web designer was brought on to redesign the website, which is a work in progress. A new capture has been added so that visitors can elect to subscribe to a NALIP newsletter. In this process, each person must fill out a "form" that includes name, address, phone, and email.

Casillas reported that since its

launch a week ago we have received about 25 requests, including one from India. Cisneros reported that the webmaster is looking into packages to include a national listserv through the NALIP site.

Chapter and local activity report

Edwin Pagan and Maria Escobedo reported on the activities of the N.Y. chapter. The chapter's peer-run writer's lab is a success. Members have benefited from participating and obtaining feedback on their work. More workshops are underway, including one on Final Cut Pro being developed by member Andres Nicolini. Pagan confirmed that previous tension between the chapter and NALIP national has been relieved by the increase in positive communication between the two. However the official definition of the relationship between National and its chapters still needs to be articulated.

Action: The bylaws will be amended to include a detailed definition of chapter roles, including a policy on fundraising and national grant applications.

Minutes submitted by Claudia Casillas, NALIP Membership Programs Coordinator.