

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
Chapter Annual Report

SPJ professional and student chapters are asked to report on their activities each year to satisfy SPJ bylaws and to be considered for chapter awards.

SPJ's 12 regional directors will use your answers below in selecting [Chapters of the Year](#), as well as [Circle of Excellence](#) winners.

Please respond to the questions under **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES** with answers of no more than 200 words per section. Programs can be listed in multiple sections as long as they're relevant. Please include links or media coverage to provide elaboration on your activities.

REQUIRED CHAPTER INFORMATION

Chapter name: SPJ New England

Region: 1

Submitter's name: Jordan Frias

Submitter's email and phone number: jfriasspj@gmail.com 401-965-1452

When did you conduct officer elections? Mid October, 2016

(continues on next page)

Chapter Leadership

President: Jordan Frias

Vice President: Bill Marcus

Secretary: Cole Rosengren

Treasurer: Cole Rosengren

Additional Board Members: Beverly Ford, Joyce Crane, Adam Sennott, Chris Faraone, Naomi Kooker

How many programs/projects did you complete this year (May 1, 2016-April 30, 2017)? 6

We had: Spotlight Viewing at the Globe, Election Coverage panel, Public Records and Open Meeting Law event, Press & Speech Freedom & the War on Terror and two SPJ After Hours events

Was your chapter represented at EIJ16? If so, by who? Yes. Danielle McLean, former chapter president and Michael Fitzgerald, former treasurer

Was your chapter represented at your regional conference? If so, by who? Yes. Jordan Frias, chapter president, Cole Rosengren, chapter secretary-treasurer, Danielle McLean, former chapter president, Irwin Gratz, Maine satellite president, Naomi Kooker, board member, Michael Fitzgerald, former treasurer

(continues on next page)

What is the name of your financial institution? Metro Credit Union

What is the balance of your account(s) at April 30, 2017? \$13.25 (balance \$333.25 as of 5/26/17)

Who reviewed your financial statements? *(All chapters must appoint three members each year to review bank statements; reconcile checks and check registers against bank statements; review receipts; and examine expenses.)*

Name: Jordan Frias

Email: jfriasspj@gmail.com

Name: Michael Fitzgerald

Email: mikelark@juno.com

Name: Cole Rosengren

Email: cdrosengren@gmail.com

Did your chapter file a 990? Yes

Are you submitting a copy with this report? Yes

Are you submitting copies of bank statements with this report? Yes. Also submitting copies of Maine satellite chapter bank statements.

Are you submitting copies of your bylaws with this report? Yes

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Your program of the year

What was your signature effort this fiscal year? What was the event that drew the biggest audience and the most attention?

Our Election 2016 Coverage panel event at Northeastern University. Reporters from Massachusetts and New Hampshire discussed their experience covering the national elections as well as the campaigns of Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Donald Trump. Participants also discussed covering Congressional candidates and controversial ballot questions. Close to 100 were in attendance, many of whom engaged with the participants by asking questions for over two hours.

<http://www.spjne.org/2016/12/181/>

Mention in Boston Herald:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/newenglandspj/permalink/10154580951701221/>

[https://storify.com/public/templates/slideshow/index.html?](https://storify.com/public/templates/slideshow/index.html?src=//storify.com/spjne/chapter-hosts-panel-on-election-2016-reporters)

[src=//storify.com/spjne/chapter-hosts-panel-on-election-2016-reporters](https://storify.com/spjne/chapter-hosts-panel-on-election-2016-reporters)

SPJ outreach

What did your chapter do to train or engage the public? We're looking for anything you did to teach non-journalists about journalism.

We held a panel that discussed the updated public records and open meeting law in Massachusetts. The audience, which packed a bar, included reporters, lawyers and a representative of the Massachusetts ACLU.

Discussion was robust and extended beyond the agenda to include issues of public transparency, government accountability and the public's right to know. Our event brought lawyers and reporters together in concerted action to advance a better public records bill in the near future. We partnered with the New England First Amendment Coalition to host the event.

<http://www.spjne.org/2017/01/program-for-public-records-event-live-stream-information/>

Student outreach

Did your chapter present sessions at scholastic press association conferences or college media conventions? Did you visit high school or college classes as guest lecturers?

We held our Election 2016 Coverage panel at Northeastern University in Boston to reach out to college students who are looking to work in the field of journalism. We also spoke with journalism students at the University about SPJ in March as they are looking to reestablish their own student chapter.

<https://www.theodysseyonline.com/society-professional-journalists-discuss-election-political-panel-northeastern-university>

We also, for the first time, coordinated an event in the predominantly African-American and Latino community of Roxbury in Boston at Roxbury Community College. We partnered with the Muslim Student Association and the Muslim Justice League (a new organization of younger Muslim Americans in the Boston Area) to present a panel which explored the expression of First Amendment freedoms in the age of the War on Terror. The Muslim Student Association pledged to follow up the event with a “Know Your Rights” event of its own as well as a “Meet the Muslims” SPJNE-sponsored lunch likely scheduled for the upcoming year. Our panel included the recently resigned U.S. Attorney, Carmen Ortiz.

http://www.masslive.com/politics/index.ssf/2017/02/we_are_living_in_dangerous_tim.html

Scholarships

Did your chapter offer high school and/or college scholarships to students pursuing a career in journalism?

Our chapter approved a provision in bylaws to allow for administering a scholarship fund through the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation. We plan to give out scholarships in 2018.

Ethics

Did your chapter teach journalism ethics to journalists or the public in your service area?

Journalists who covered the 2016 election mentioned the need to stay objective during a panel we hosted at Northeastern University in Boston.

FOI

Did you offer FOI programs? Did you partner with other organizations to defend press freedom in your service area? Did you lobby or protest for FOI?

Our public records and open meeting law panel with the New England First Amendment Coalition covered this topic at length.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/newenglandspj/permalink/10154825260711221/>

Diversity

Did you teach diversity to journalists or partner with diversity media groups to promote the concept?

We held a discussion on perceptions of Islam in the media and surveillance with the former US Attorney Carmen Ortiz, the Muslim Justice League, the Muslim Student Association at Roxbury Community College in Boston and the Massachusetts ACLU.

<http://www.spjne.org/2017/02/event-featuring-former-massachusetts-u-s-attorney-carmen-ortiz/>

SPJ support

Did your chapter help judge the Mark of Excellence or Sigma Delta Chi awards? What about regional and other chapters' awards? Contests from other organizations?

Two of our board members participated in judging the Region 1 Mark of Excellence awards.

Membership

How many members did you gain or lose this fiscal year? What specific actions did you take to retain or recruit members? Any innovative efforts?

Our chapter gained

Membership fluctuated during this fiscal year. We currently have 77 members as of April 2017, most that still need to pay chapter dues, which we hope to reach out to soon. We always try to recruit new members at our events and through word of mouth.

Communication

What did your chapter do to keep members informed about chapter activities? Do you publish a newsletter? Communicate via an email string? Can you provide links to a chapter Web site(s), Facebook page, Twitter account, or other ways you reach members?

We constantly monitored our Facebook page to make sure that we were able to add those who wanted to join as requests came in. Most of our traction comes from our Facebook page, so we shared that link with members constantly via email while promotion events on that page. We also started utilizing our LinkedIn page to promote those events and recently started a Twitter account for even more membership engagement. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/newenglandspj/?ref=bookmarks>

Fundraising

Did your chapter conduct any fundraising activities this year? Explain your efforts and the results.

The only fundraising we did was through our admission fees for our panel discussions. We also collected donations at other panels where we didn't charge for admission. We seek guidance in this area.