

**SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS**  
**FORT WORTH PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER**  
**BYLAWS Ratified July 2010**

**Article I: Name**

The name of the organization shall be the Society of Professional Journalists, Fort Worth Professional Chapter.

**Article II: Definition and Purpose**

The chapter shall be a nonprofit professional organization for those in journalism or who were in journalism and changed to a related field but kept their Society of Professional Journalists membership current.

The purpose of the chapter shall be to work for a free and responsible media, to unite professionals engaged in all fields of communications, to recognize distinguished achievements of those in these fields, to maintain high professional standards, and to encourage members to greater individual and professional effort and performance.

**Article III: Membership**

There are two classes of membership:

- A. *Voting members*--including professional journalists and journalism academics, as defined by the national society's rules; retired journalists and journalism academics; current journalism students not affiliated with a student chapter; and former college journalism students who remain active in the national organization.
- B. *Associate members* - persons who do not meet the above criteria but who support the goals of the organization. Associate members may not vote or hold office.

## **Article IV: Dues and Fees**

*Section 1:* Chapter dues are set by the board and cover 12 months' membership beginning with the month in which they are paid. Members are considered to be no longer in good standing when their dues are more than 60 days overdue.

## **Article V: Officers and Election**

*Section 1:* The board of directors will consist of six officers - president, vice president for membership, vice president for finance, vice president for awards and recognition, vice president for programs, and vice president for scholarships - five other directors and the immediate past president. One officer or director (other than the president) shall also be designated as the president-elect, with that designation noted in the board election process. Unless the president-elect leaves the board in the intervening year or chooses not to serve as president, or unless the current president is nominated for a second term, the president-elect shall be nominated for the office of president the following year.

Officers' terms shall be for one year and directors for two years, with directors' terms staggered so that no more than three director positions come up for election in anyone year. All must be in good standing with both the chapter and national SPJ, and all have a vote in decisions before the board.

*Section 2:* The board will use the procedures in Robert's Rules of Order and be responsible for the chapter's direction subject to the will of the members concerning: (1) membership and attendance, (2) regular and special meetings, (3) planning, (4) convention representation, (5) chapter activities and (6) serving as the governing body for the Texas Gridiron Club Inc.

*Section 3:* Should an officer or director position become vacant midterm, the board, by majority vote, shall choose a replacement to fill the position until the next election.

*Section 4:* The president shall appoint a nominating committee to present a slate of officer and director candidates to the members. Only voting members in good standing may nominate

candidates or be nominated to serve on the board. Only persons who have served on the board within the past five years may be nominated for the offices of president and president-elect.

Elections will be held in July, with ballots cast in person or electronically, as determined by the board. Members will be notified of the election date and the slate of candidates at least seven days in advance. Only voting members in good standing may cast ballots. Officers and directors shall assume their duties in September.

*Section 5:* The board may retain staff as necessary and will set policies for the duties of any staff.

*Section 6:* The board shall adopt a set of operating policies to guide board members, committee members, and volunteers in acting on behalf of SPJ.

#### **Article VI:** Chapter Meetings and Business

*Section 1:* All actions taken by the chapter shall be by majority vote of the board. The bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the voting members in good standing at a regular or special meeting. The board may authorize absentee balloting.

Membership must be notified of proposed changes at least seven days before the meeting.

*Section 2:* The membership will meet at least six times during the chapter year, September through August.

*Section 3:* A quorum of the board is six voting members.

*Section 4:* The president or the president's delegate shall preside at board meetings.

#### **Article VII:** Disbursement of Funds

The board shall authorize the disbursement of chapter funds. It shall approve, maintain, and abide by a set of financial procedures in accordance with its fiduciary responsibilities.

**Article VIII: Committees**

Committees may be established at the discretion of the board. The board also may appoint advisers as needed.