

ACJS BEGINNING-YEAR GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Friday, March 22, 2024 8:00 am CST

IN ATTENDANCE: Anthony Peguero (President), Bitna Kim (1st Vice-President), Stephanie Mizrahi (2nd Vice-President), Aimée “May” Delaney (Secretary), Jodi Lane (Trustee-At-Large), Michele P. Bratina (Region 1 Trustee), John Worrall (Executive Director), Letiscia Perrin (Association Manager), Sarah Kuehn (program co-chair), Sujung Cho (program co-chair), Camille Gibson (program co-chair), David Myers, (incoming 2nd vice president), Cassandra Reyes (incoming Trustee-At-Large).

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Denise Paquette Boots (immediate past president), Leah Daigle (Treasurer), Robert Bing (Trustee-At-Large), Melissa Burek (Trustee-At-Large), John Stogner (Region 2 Trustee), Ming Li Hsieh (Region 3 Trustee), Erin Orrick (Region 4 Trustee), Alison Burke (Region 5 Trustee).

I. Introductions (Peguero)

- President Peguero called the meeting to order at 8:03am CST.
- Peguero introduced himself.
- He thanked Mizrahi, Worrall, Perrin, and Daigle for their support during his presidency. He thanked all Board members as well.
- He provided a list of standing committees and advised members that emails will be sent calling for volunteers to serve on committees for 2026 annual meeting.

II. 1st Vice President’s Report (Kim)

- Kim introduced herself.
- She thanked Perrin for her support.
- She announced her presidency Goals: her theme is international and she has been reaching out to global partners. She is focusing on innovation in research, education, practice, and transformation.
- She provided a brief overview of the 2025 Denver conference plans:
 - The conference theme for next year’s annual meeting is “The Future of Criminal Justice and Criminology: The Case for Inclusion, Interaction, and Internationalization.”
 - She introduced her program co-chairs.
 - She advised that her sessions will focus on each aspect of her conference theme. She has assistance from past presidents, including Unnithan and Merlo. She advised that her 4 local arrangement chairs will keep members informed about guest speakers and events in Denver.

III. 2nd Vice President’s Report (Mizrahi)

- Mizrahi introduced herself.
- She introduced her program co-chairs (one in attendance).

- She shared her conference theme: “Crises Across the Justice Landscape: The Nexus of Governance and Responsibility in Criminal Justice.” She explained that her theme will focus on 21st century crimes across borders, making the theme a cross between domestic and international. She has named her standing committee chairs and thanked all of them for volunteering.
- She announced her call for volunteers to serve on committees at the 2026 ACJS conference will be in Philadelphia. A call for volunteers, particularly standing committee members, will be sent via email within the next couple of weeks. The email to send requests to is email your request to 2026acjs@gmail.com.

IV. Executive Director’s Report (Worrall)

- Worrall advised that ACJS is in healthy financial status.
- He provided the conference registration numbers with the assistance of Perrin: 1536 onsite and preregistration total, with 1154 registrants checked in as of yesterday.
- Worrall met with the representative from Maritz (organization that assists ACJS with conference planning and site locations) yesterday who recommended hiring an outside consulting firm to review membership dues conference registration fees. This would be a comparison to other social science professional organizations to determine capability and determine if the fee structures are aligned with financial sustainability of ACJS. The expectation is for this professional review to also help improve conference attendance (e.g., having more attendees present than panelists, as the opposite has been the norm for the past few conferences). One idea that surfaced in this conversation was ACJS having more flexibility with the conference days (maybe adding a Sunday instead of Saturday) and the time of year to reduce hotel room costs. There is no projected at this time, rather this is a recommendation that he will explore with the Board.
- He advised that ACJS is being audited by IRS. This notification came about 2 weeks prior to the current annual meeting.
- He announced future sites for the annual meeting that may/may not have been published on the website yet:
 - 2030, 2034 Portland OR (at the conference center using the Hyatt hotel across street)
 - 2031 Louisville KY at the Gault House
 - 2032 New Orleans at the Hilton
 - 2033 TBD

He asked members to email him with suggestions for future locations, keeping in mind that some of the more favorable cities (e.g., Miami FL) may not be feasible. He explained that the locations are limited due to varying costs and expenses of specific locations that may not be conducive for the ACJS budget.

V. Treasurer's report (Daigle)

- Worrall presented for Daigle.
- He explained that her position reviews any expenses over a certain amount of money, and reviews the financials to ensure financial security and earning power of investments.

VI. President's Report (Peguero)

- Peguero expressed awareness of the issues with institutional funding to attend conferences and expressed his confidence that the Board is always cognizant of these restrictions to keep fees reasonable while also considering the need to maintain the financial health of ACJS.
- He announced the featured speakers presenting this morning and the awards luncheon. He expressed gratitude to Perrin for making a list of ACJS main events on the back of badges.
- He announced his pending transition to the nominations and election committee as chair, and advised ACJS is seeking Nominations for 2025 Board: Second Vice President, Trustee-At-Large, Secretary, Region One Trustee, and Region Five Trustee. There is a link to PDF for the Call for Nominations in the Mobile App. and there an email announcement sent to the membership. You can find the Nominations or Petition forms on the ACJS Website under "Resources/Election Forms." He asked all to reach out to him with questions.
- He encouraged all to attend the research pictorial at 6pm tonight.
- He expressed his gratitude to all Board members, and advised that he will give his assistance to support to incoming 2nd VP Myers.

VII. Questions from the membership

- There were no questions from the attending membership.

President Peguero adjourned the meeting at 8:27am CST.