

## ACJS ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

**Date: Friday, March 14**

**Meeting Location: Director's Row F 8:00am MT**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Bitna Kim (President), Stephanie Mizrahi (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President), David Myers (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President), Aimée "May" Delaney (Secretary), Jodi Lane (Trustee-At-Large), John Stogner (Region 2 Trustee), Ming Li Hsieh (Region 3 Trustee), Erin Orrick (Region 4 Trustee), John Worrall (Executive Director), Letiscia Perrin (Association Manager); Sanja Ivkovich (incoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President), Camille Gibson (incoming Secretary), Christine Tartaro (incoming Region I Trustee Officer)

**Absent:** Anthony Peguero (Immediate Past President), Leah Daigle (Treasurer), Cassandra Reyes (Trustee-At-Large), Melissa Burek (Trustee-At-Large), Michele Bratina (Region 1 Trustee), Alison Burke (Region 5 Trustee),

### I. Introductions

- Kim called the meeting to order at 7:58 am.
- There were 10 members in attendance.

### II. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report (Mizrahi)

- Mizrahi discussed the goals for her Presidency next year: being inclusive of all justice professionals (e.g., practitioners, academics, students), continuing an international focus with promoting the organization around the world and bringing in new members
- The theme of her conference is "Crisis across the Criminal Justice Landscape, which will highlight the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. The plan is to on how the CJ system's role, internationally, emerged with new threats and specifically after the terrorist attack.
- There will be tours (e.g., Eastern State Penitentiary), activities (e.g., trivia), and workshops (e.g., cryptocurrency fraud). Don't forget to pack your dancing shoes!

### III. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report (Meyers)

- Myers announced he is working on arranging all committee chairs and filling in all committee members. He advised the call for volunteers was been circulated and he would like members to contact his program committee to sign up. Cathy Marcum and Rachel Powers are his committee co-chairs, who will be reaching out to solicit volunteers.
- He expressed appreciation to all Board members, ACJS staff, and volunteers for their time and commitment to keep the organization operating smoothly.

### IV. Executive Director's Report (Worrall)

- Worrall has been tasked with seeking alternative sources of revenue beyond conference revenue in order to ensure balanced budget without continued sustained loss from conferences. See Treasurer's report for more information.

V. Treasurer's Report (Daigle)

- Worrall provided an oral report on behalf of Daigle. He advised there was a loss of \$180,000 on the conference last year in Chicago, which led to the need for sustainability. The recommendation of the BFA Committee was a \$45 increase in registration fees for next year's conference all everyone, which was approved by the Board. He advised this is not the desired action but is necessary to close the gap between costs of conference and revenue raised from conference.
- He advised that the biggest source of revenue for the organization is the royalties from journal sales with Taylor & Francis, which increased this past year. He also advised that conference sponsorships this current year was \$83,000, which was an increase over last year. He announced that ACJS currently holds \$2.5M, which is not typical for this time of year (usually \$2M). This higher amount is due to early registration and other revenues not typical for time of year, and noted that full payment has not been made for the conference yet (upwards of \$500,000).

VI. President's Report (Kim)

- Kim Expressed gratitude to her program co-chairs for all their hard work and dedication. She also expressed gratitude to past presidents Merlo and Unnithan as well as Peter Benekos for their guidance and support.
- She advised that the biggest concern raised by membership to her over the past year was issues members have with their travel budget and limitations on their ability to come to conferences as a result (needing to choose one conference).
- She believes she met all her goals for her Presidency and the conference theme with the key note speakers and striving to include as many members as possible. She also strived to have open forums so that members could interact with the main speakers; she believes this was very successful. She attended and reviewed the keynote speaker, plenary events, and other events to ensure smooth operation and successful attendance.
- She thanked God for support. She also thanked Perrin for her support and hard work on making this conference a huge success. She thanked all the Board members for their work on making this conference successful by supporting her.
- She announced that she visited each regional conference to meet with their leadership to learn about their challenges. She expressed the importance of collaboration between ACJS and regional organizations. She sees working through the Regional Trustee Officers for continued collaboration.
- She also expressed importance of collaborating with European and Asian organizations, in which she signed/will sign MOU's. There were many members from these international organizations attending the ACJS conference this year.
- She announced that nominations for the 2025-2026 academy awards will be posted in late April or early May, with Jason Williams as the Awards Committee Chair. She thanked Ivkovich for her work as the Awards Committee Chair this current year. She invited everyone to attend the luncheon and award ceremony later today, noting that the front tables are reserved for sponsors and Executive Board.
- She introduced the incoming Board officers: Ivkovich, Gibson, Tartaro.
- She announced that nominations for open Board positions is active and the organization is seeking nominations for: 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Trustee at Large, Region II

Trustee Officer (Southern), and Regional III Trustee Officer (Midwest). This will be posted on ACJS website.

- Kim expressed her gratitude for all sponsors this year.
- She introduced the contingency of the KICJ (Korean Institute of Criminal Justice), who attended the ACJS conference and sign an MOU between ACJS and KICJ. She expressed her appreciation for their attendance.
- She encouraged everyone to attend the Bruce Smith Award plenary immediately following this meeting.

#### VII. Association Manager's Report (Perrin)

- Perrin advised that the entire conference went smoothly, with exception of the mobile app.
- She provided attendance statistics: 1365 pre-registered and 1557 as of the time of this meeting. She advised this is an increase in attendance from last year.
- Kim expressed that this is good, but the number can always be increased. She called for the need to seek more international attendance, which increased this current year from last year.

#### VIII. Member Q&A

- There was a question about the increased in registration fee: "across the board" for everyone, including students? Worrall advised yes, and explained this is due to inflation in costs for conference expenses and that the registration fees are not covering the costs of the food provided at the conference. He advised that the Board and Staff are exploring a mechanism for donations to cover the cost of student registration fees. There was a suggestion to have a place on the annual membership form for people to sponsor student attendance, as well as an advance announcement to advertise this new initiative. Worrall agrees this is good idea, but advised that we need to be cognizant of not adding more work for Perrin given the huge level of responsibilities already bestowed on her.
- There was a question about whether or not sponsorships come with a number of registrations and if these could be used for students. Perrin advised that the sponsorships cover 2 or 3 people, but not students (the sponsors need to be covered for attendance. Worrall advised that there continues to be inflation while at the same time a decrease in conference attendance due to COVID fallout.
- There was a question about how far out the conferences have been planned/confirmed. Worrall advised that ACJS has contracted out to 2034 with hotels and conference centers, which is posted on the website. He advised that Pittsburg PA will most likely be the venue for 2033 (not contracted yet), and the Portland OR will be held at the convention center with hotel across the street. He advised that the Board and Staff are exploring more convention centers because the cost are substantially lower than holding the conference within a hotel – between the costs of hotels and the need for union representation in union-based cities, the costs have become very expensive. He gave an example: in Chicago, the union was required to shadow the AV staff, and this cost about \$100,000. He advised that Philadelphia is also a union-based city and they expect the costs to be exorbitant. ACJS is trying to union-based cities due to costs only. There was a suggestion to hold the conference in Kansas City again, but Worrall advised that

the cost of that conference was just too expensive to consider that venue again. There was a question about other cities that are being considered. Worrall explained that many venues in desirable cities may not have the capacity to hold an ACJS conference and some venues to do bid for the conference. He explained that Maritz is the contracted company to explore possible locations (e.g., Savannah) when the Board and membership suggest sites; Maritz explores each locale/venue to determine if the conference can be accommodated, then puts out a RFP from hotels/conference centers. The issue for ACJS is that the conference is either too large for smaller hotels but not big enough for convention centers, so there are fewer and fewer cities in which ACJS can attend due to these size issues.

- There was a question about membership numbers. Perrins advised that there are approximately 1880 members. She said more people joined the organization on site, so she suspects the membership will be upwards of 2000 by the end of the week. There was a question about the number of regular members vs. student members vs. non-members. Perrin advised that there were about 500 non-members who attended the conference, but most attendees were/became members. She does not have the statistics yet on the number of students vs. regular members. She said that, in all her years working in this profession, this was the only association (in her experience) that had such a high percentage of members to non-members compared to other organizations she has worked with.

Meeting adjourned 8:33am