

## **BABJ State of the Union**

Held January 12, 2019 at WJZ headquarters in Baltimore

### I. Year in Review

- A. Podcasting workshop
  - 1. Featured Brown Liquor Report and Charles Robinson of MPT
  - 2. Encouraged members to be multimedia and make themselves invaluable
  
- B. Book release event with Rochelle Riley
  - 1. We will continue to make our programming to be about development
  - 2. We can have more than one event a month
  
- C. Canva workshop
  - 1. This was held at a location that wasn't easily accessible for members (no wheelchair access, etc)
  - 2. This is a workshop that would be especially beneficial for p.r./marketing folks
  
- D. Google Tools - members were taught how to maximize Google
  
- E. Second annual Black Male Media Project
  - 1. This will continue to be a call to action
  - 2. David said we did not have a big crowd, but a great panel and excellent help from Morgan
  
- F. Capital Gazette shooting/newsroom safety issues - attacks on media are becoming more of a normalcy
  
- G. BABJ Reviews
  - 1. This was held in October and had low turnout, but featured big hitters in media
  - 2. Will have a section on our website for annual events like this and the Black Male Media Project
  - 3. We would like to be more of an activist journalism organization in 2019
  
- H. Midterm elections - Featured Sean Yoes, Lisa Snowden-McCray
  
- I. Christmas party - submitted gifts to Loving Arms

### II. Ideas for future programming, etc.

#### A. Motions

1. Maria Morales motioned that BABJ general body meetings be held on the fourth Saturday, starting at 11:30 am for networking and noon for business. Sally Cherry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously
2. Maria Morales motioned that the primary location for these meetings will be at Maryland Public Television, with WBAL as a secondary location, and events will be held at Morgan State University. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. Maria Morales motioned that Tramon Lucas fill the vacant position of student liaison, focusing on outreach to area colleges. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Maria Morales motioned that Shanteé take on the role of Treasurer, a position she held in the past. Shanteé agreed to do so.

#### B. Workshop ideas

McKenna

1. Shanteé suggests the LinkedIn workshop again with Colleen
2. Gina suggests an image consultant that could talk about wardrobe, natural hair issues, etc. (Justina Pollard was mentioned as a possible workshop leader, similar to 'how to brand yourself'/rebranding
3. Henry wanted an AP Style workshop
4. Brian wanted prep for the August convention (which will be in Aventura, Florida) - a review of reels, clips, etc
5. BABJ Reviews would have to be in spring and ideally not conflicting with finals. NABJ regionals at Hampton University will be in April; there's a possibility of having two events in one month
6. How to create a website - Gina
7. Photo Day, with an emphasis on headshots - Maria Roberts. Could Brian do it?
8. Reddit use - Vance has used it to research people. Sally says this falls under a workshop she has done in the past, "Reaching your Target Audience"
9. Public speaking - Shanteé, could also be an emphasis on elevator pitches. Shanteé could lead session or reach out to another Toastmasters member

#### D. Miscellaneous/Technicalities

1. Maria Roberts wants to know if there's a way we can expand use the BABJ site. Nicki wants to create a members only section where resumes can be uploaded, etc.

2. Cattle call being put out on the Inspire Black Men event, so Dave can focus on membership recruitment. Barry Simms and Kai Jackson could take on the lead

3. Karen Campbell wants to develop a program for black women, that will be somewhat similar to Inspire Black Men

4. Maria Roberts is in the process of rebranding the peer mentoring program. Would like to expand our email network and has reached out to Jopwell, which advocates for people of color in the job search.

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