



PRISON JOURNALISM PROJECT CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS BY-LAWS

Preamble

We uphold the values of the Society of Professional Journalists “to unite journalists of talent, truth and energy in good fellowship; to assist the members in living up to the noblest principles of journalism; and to advance the standards of journalism by: TAKING ACTION to help safeguard First Amendment guarantees and ensure freedom of information, FOSTERING adherence to a code of ethical principles, CREATING opportunities for professional development, ENCOURAGING diversity in coverage and staffing at all levels of the profession, thus increasing journalism’s value as a democratic institution.”

Article One: Name And Scope

We will be known as the Prison Journalism Project Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. We are a virtual chapter that is a satellite of the national chapter, composed of incarcerated journalists and managed by the Prison Journalism Project (PJP).

Article Two: Membership

Membership will consist of incarcerated journalists and formerly incarcerated writers and editors who are doing active journalism work in and outside of the U.S. in accordance with SPJ’s Code of Ethics. Candidates for membership will be approved by the Prison Journalism Project. Membership status will be reviewed each year at the time of renewal.

Active journalism work is defined as the publication of at least six pieces of work annually that are journalistic in nature, **including at least three pieces for PJP.** (This means that all six pieces can be published on PJP, but they don’t have to be. Up to three pieces can be from another publication or media outlet including prison publications)

Work of journalistic nature may include a combination of written news articles, feature stories, reported essays, and reported op-eds as well as illustrated journalism, photography, audio and video stories. Members must be able to demonstrate an understanding of journalistic ethics and work according to those standards.

Editors-in-chief and editorial staff of prison newspapers with more than one year experience are exempt from the PJP publication requirements for their first year of membership. (They must still submit six clips of their work)

Membership dues are \$37.50 per year. PJP will pay the dues for PJP contributing writers who are accepted by the chapter. Prison newspaper editors-in-chief may be eligible for limited funding to cover their annual dues.

The number of members is not set. It may rise or fall based on the number of active journalists in the community.

Due to the fact that incarcerated journalists are spread across the country in various prisons and cannot readily communicate with each other, the chapter will be led and managed by the Prison Journalism Project. However, a chapter president and vice president will be appointed from within the community and will help shape the chapter. Terms will be two years. The chapter will stay flexible in its management and operational framework, so it can adapt to its members' future needs and wants.