



Visual Effects Society Georgia Section  
Tuesday 26 March 2019  
7 PM ET  
Mayfair Renaissance 195 14th Street NE  
Atlanta, 30309

## MEETING MINUTES

Welcome all to the 14<sup>th</sup> section of the Visual Effects Society.

Mike Chambers and Callie C. Miller ([callie@visualeffectssociety.com](mailto:callie@visualeffectssociety.com)) welcomed the new chapter.

Present for the meeting:

Matt Akey  
Zach Bell  
Art David  
Billy Gabor  
Michael Hofstein  
David Johnson\*  
Carol Madrigal  
Sean Thigpen  
Rob Wright

Callie Miller\*  
Mike Chambers\*

\*Via Zoom Conference

Staggering of the Terms (1 year volunteers):

Matt Akey  
Bill Chapman  
Billy Gabor  
Michael Hofstein  
Carol Madrigal  
(1 more volunteer needed - from Savannah - Either David Johnson or Chris Gallagher)

Section Officers elected:

Rob Wright - Chair  
Zack Bell Co-Chair  
Sean Thigpen – Treasure  
Carol Madrigal – Secretary

## Content:

- Callie offered insight on the duties for the Treasurer and Secretary. Minutes will be uploaded to the VES website ideally within a week of the Board meeting.
- For HQ requirements, Callie will need the following information from the Treasurer and Chairs ASAP:
  - Georgia Bank Account
  - Legal Name
  - Home Address
  - Telephone Number/Cellphone
  - DOB

## Clarification on stipend:

- The **stipend** is primary funded based on 20% of the member dues. This number is based on however many members are in the section since January 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be disbursed in 2 installments: 50% based of the March 1<sup>st</sup> stipend (after the BOD approves the budget for the whole society) and the second half of the stipend is sent out when it is requested towards the end of the year and our chapter can prove need; which is where the activity plan comes into place.
- The **Entertainment fund** is a reimbursement, NOT a flat given amount; up to 1000\$ (the section budget will take the hit if it surpasses 1000\$, any balance left does not get reimbursed) (Example of entertainment events: summer bbq, halloween party, etc. )

Callie will confirm if we can use the entertainment fund money for several events.
- The **Nomination Event Fund** is a \$1,000 reimbursement, January event, 4<sup>th</sup> (This date is set in stone).

Note: Nomination event can be skipped on the first year. (award nomination, members watch screeners).
- An event planning budget needs to be created by early to mid April.

## Membership Communication & Social Media

- A Facebook page has been started by Art. He will be sharing a password, so that it can be administered by a few people.
- Outward facing Social Media: We can use it to inviting our group or other groups for shared screenings. Use Twitter/Facebook page
- Inward facing Social Media: Closed group on Facebook for member only events and information blasts.
- Savannah will be creating their own social media presence to be shared with the Board.
- Include ways in social media for members to informally organize event. (IE: public facing FB page, inward facing: private FB group)

## Savannah

Savannah will be included in all planning and discussions of the Georgia VES chapter.

- DJ is leading the Savannah Committee.
- Have tandem events with Atlanta, funding, discussion of meetups, disbursement of funds. Someone in the Atlanta group needs to be in the Savannah committee.
- Savannah is part of the plan for screenings; extra effort is being made for screenings in both locations.

## Membership Outreach (New Member Support, Recruitment Drives, Database)

- Participate in community outreach.
- Screenings, are meant to reach out to the very large pool of visual effects talent in Georgia. We are discussing way

to add new members, while adhering to the standards of the VES. A good standard for candidacy is that if there is an awards category for a member then he/she is a clear candidate. Software creators, educators, etc may be a case by case basis. We will have to find a way to maybe mentor or help guide people to join the society. We need to be able to identify the talent.

### **Sponsorship Ideas:**

- State Funding

### **Screenings (venue suggestions)**

- Rob is communicating with Ben Schneider: He deals with membership and screening. Ben and Chris were able to start a legal discussion with SCAD (Atlanta, Savannah) to start screenings in June (SCAD would be expecting that students receive any extra spots). Insurance and security will need to be discussed.
- Cinema Concepts of, I85 about 50 people can fit in the screening room, they can be approached.
- Chris Escobar owns the Plaza theater. They got a 4k screen install. (They host the Atlanta Film Festival).
- Ben recommended that we do not rely on a single place, because of scheduling (a few weeks from when we have the screening we are notified by Ben that we have a screening opportunity). It is up to the studio to schedule the screening.
- A screening at regular commercial place is preferred (IE: have concessions open so that they can make a profit).
- Atlantic Station is a great venue already very familiar with screenings.
- We cannot hold small scale screenings but we can approach the studios to suggest this.
- Any ideas need to be run by Ben Schneider.
- *We cannot hold discussions on any film that any of us personally worked on unless it is approved by the studio.*
- Another screening idea is to show non mayor blockbuster films or anniversary films that the members can watch together and discuss VFX (IE: Robocop). Permission is still required from the studios, but it is more likely to receive it.

### **Events and Venues**

- Pinewood (Proof – Art David).
- Sponsorship is a great way to bring money for events. It is a good idea to hold pub night right after the membership drive.
- Coordinate events with other Guilds. Content type events, workshop, sharing techniques.
- Ideas for community outreach event:

Create an event for the High Museum to showcase the art of visual effects.

Panel or booth at Dragoncon, Siggraph, Cinegear

Marketing opportunities at Dragon Con in order to showcase our brand.

- DJ and Chris (Savannah Film Festival END OF OCTOBER and Atlanta Film Festival) We can pair a screening and a panel with one of those Festivals.
- NOTE: Approach Callie over what we are able to do.

### **Nomination Event Details**

- It is tied to a hard date (January 4<sup>th</sup>). Plans for the event start in July.
- The Awards committee meets monthly meets by January 1<sup>st</sup> they scrutinize all of the submissions.
- It consists of setting up theaters in about 5 rooms. The sections receive AVID playlists, lots of guidelines to avoid judges judging their own work. All of this is happening in tandem with L.A. 's event.

### **Next Meeting Goals**

- Establish committees.
- Time sensitive: Georgia Chamber of Commerce tax incentive talks. This session ends in 2 weeks. Rep Matt Dollar is our contact.
- Chris and DJ want Savannah meetups, they need to come up with a budget for a small party and submit it by the next meeting.
- Get involved (seat at the table) with Matt Dollar . They are very determined to figure out how to improve investment of the Post Industry in GA and we need to help guide them to make the correct legislation. We need to gather and offer numbers for the entertainment committee. Bill Gabor has some research to show these numbers. The session is over in 2 weeks. We can invite Matt to join our meeting.
- Create a mission statement to our group
- Set deadlines to meet all of the goals.
- Discuss the group IMOGO

### **Announcements:**

- Board of managers meeting will happen once a month. Next meeting will be April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Billy Gabor will host.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15pm