

# IRE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

## October 2022 Committee Meeting Report

---

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**Jodie Fleischer** – Cox Media Group, IRE Board Member (At-Large, Exec Committee)

**Cindy Galli** – ABC News, IRE Board Member (Vice President) – *Committee Chair*

**Josh Hinkle** – KXAN Austin, IRE Board Member (Secretary)

**Caresse Jackman** – Investigate TV

**Corey Johnson** – ProPublica

**John Kelly** – ABC Owned Stations

**Annie Ma** – Associated Press

**Neena Satija** – Houston Chronicle, IRE Board Member

The 2022-2023 Conference Committee met on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> for the first time. All members were in attendance, as well as IRE Executive Director Diana Fuentes, Director of Programming Lauren Grandestaff and Director of Logistics Stephanie Klimstra.

The group started with personal introductions and Galli gave a brief overview of the committee's tasks over the next year, which include discussing conference registration rates, choosing a keynote speaker for IRE and suggesting panel and speakers for both IRE and NICAR.

Diana Fuentes gave the committee an update on NICAR registration which is now open and reminded the committee that staff is still compiling panel suggestions. Responding to a question from Annie Ma, Fuentes advised the committee on the future of virtual-only offerings outside of NICAR and IRE – as the hybrid model has not been as successful as hoped – or easily accessible for members – for those conferences.

The Committee was also advised about the proposed rates for IRE 2023, which will be presented to the full board at the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. There was also a discussion about why there is an increase from last year – which was explained is largely due to the state of the economy. It was pointed out that the hotel rates in Orlando are much lower than Denver's (IRE22). The following rates were discussed:

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>Early-Bird:</b> | <b>\$359</b> |
| <b>Regular:</b>    | <b>\$399</b> |
| <b>On-Site:</b>    | <b>\$450</b> |

The Committee posed no objections for these proposed rates to be presented to the full board.

Neena Satija presented an idea that the Committee brainstorm FAQs for members that can better explain how IRE comes up with registration rates – knowing that some members will ask about a possible increase. She also suggested that we clearly inform members of the process for choosing panels and speakers, as well as conference cities and hotels, among other things. The Committee discussed this as a good idea to add to the IRE website and Satija has circulated a document to add questions and answers.

The Committee was advised that next steps will be to make suggestions to staff for NICAR panels, to begin brainstorming ideas for an IRE keynote speaker and to make suggestions for possible conference FAQs for members.

The Committee has plans to meet again in mid-to-late November.