



May 26, 2016

Dear [AOJ member or friend],

Below is a message from ASNE, encouraged by AOJ leadership.

Dear AOJ members,

On behalf of the American Society of News Editors board of directors, we want to express our appreciation for AOJ's decision to join forces with ASNE, and enthusiastically invite you to participate in ASNE activities including our annual conference in September.

We hope you'll join a committee, offer your ideas via our various digital platforms and help shape the programming and thought leadership we provide for members throughout the year. We share AOJ's commitment to freedom of information, quality journalism, community leadership and diversity.

ASNE is one of the nation's leading proponents of fair and principled journalism, First Amendment rights and freedom of information and open government. We collaborate with national coalitions on press freedom issues to increase our impact and influence. We also work with other groups on leadership training including the Associated Press Media Editors for the annual News Leadership Conference, Investigative Reporters & Editors, the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

As you know, AOJ has reached an agreement in principle to bring AOJ together with ASNE, an agreement that was unanimously approved by ASNE's board of directors. Following a vote of the full ASNE membership at September's News Leadership Conference in Philadelphia, AOJ members will become a full part of ASNE. Under the agreement in principle, ASNE will manage AOJ's annual State Department Briefing and work with members to create new ways to serve members.

Earlier this month, ASNE President-Elect Mizell Stewart III and Executive Director Teri Hayt met with the AOJ board of directors in Washington, D.C. to begin the transition.

Stewart will appoint David Haynes to the ASNE board and a committee focused on opinion journalism will be formed to serve the interests of ASNE's newest members. Content from AOJ's website is already being migrated to asne.org, with more to come.

Once again, we look forward to welcoming current AOJ members to ASNE. We are confident that our combined organizations will serve as an even more effective advocate for quality journalism and community leadership.

Best regards,

Pam Fine, president
Mizell Stewart, vice president
Teri Hayt, executive director

More on the merger is at, or linked from, <http://aoj.wildapricot.org/masthead-2016>. It has a link for member-rates at ASNE programs in June and a deep discount for the Sept. 11-14 convention.

