

SPECIAL SECTION

Newspro

THE STATE OF TV NEWS

INSIDE

Q&A

NAHJ President O. Ricardo Pimental looks to the future. Page 30

NAHJ Hall of Fame

Hispanic journalists welcome three new inductees for 2009. Page 32

Calendar

The agenda for the NAHJ Convention and Media & Career Expo. Page 34



THE JOB'S

THE THING

Reeling From Fundamental Shifts in the News Business, Hispanic Journalists Look to Training

By Debra Kaufman

Special to TelevisionWeek

When the National Association of Hispanic Journalists meets June 24-27 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, its members will focus on one topic: staying afloat in a tempestuous industry.

Navigating an increasingly tough journalism environment is a trend that has been addressed in previous NAHJ conventions, but the current economic downturn has had a devastating impact on the organization's members.

"If people weren't convinced before about the depth of changes going on in the news industry, they're convinced now," says NAHJ executive director Ivan

Roman. "And they're convinced that we're not talking about a problem that will get better when the economy gets better. We're talking about fundamental shifts in how people produce and consume news and how it's paid for."

That means that attendees at NAHJ 2009 will find themselves at a radically different convention. "We blew up the model of what the NAHJ convention usually is and made it all about training," said Miami Herald foreign correspondent Frances Robles, who is NAHJ 2009 programming co-chair with Miami Herald Assistant World Editor Nancy San Martin.

Ms. Robles noted that past NAHJ conventions have dealt with

issues impacting Hispanic communities, from immigration to the census, but that the realities of being a journalist in today's tough environment mandates a change in focus.

"As Nancy and I sat down and made a list of what we needed, we kept in mind the number of people who lost their jobs," she said. "I've been going to NAHJ for 15 years and we fell into a routine of going over the same topics. Those seem irrelevant now that our journalistic world is falling down around us. We need to be changing our careers."

NAHJ President O. Ricardo Pimental concurred. "Before, we could weigh in on issues large in the media, and we still do some

Continued on Page 34

NAHJ@SAN JUAN

Who: The National Association of Hispanic Journalists

What: 27th Annual Convention and Media & Career Expo

When: June 24-27, 2009

Where: Puerto Rico Convention Center, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Details: NAHJ.org

LESSONS The NAHJ convention, to be held at the Puerto Rico Convention Center, is offering 33 training sessions.