

**MINUTES OF THE AUTUMN MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB**

**October 8, 2010**

**Myron Belkind, NPC Secretary**

More than 60 NPC members filled the Conference Rooms on the evening of Oct. 8 for the autumn membership meeting, the first available via a live webcast,. President Alan Bjerga called the meeting to order at 6:20pm..

The minutes of the May 7, 2010 General Membership Meeting were approved.

**Membership Report**

Membership Secretary Angela Greiling Keane reported that the total number of members had declined from 3,497 in September 2009 to 3,324 this year. She said there were two elements of good news: the increase in members under age 35, from 299 a year ago to 314, and the increase in retired members from 532 to 566.

**Treasurers Report**

Treasurer Keith Hill reported that the Club was on target to achieve budgeted profits of at least \$1.4 million by the end of the year.

He also reported that as of September 1, the Club had \$1.2 million in cash and reserves, \$200,000 more than had been mandated by the Board of Governors. Long term, the Club's auditors have said the reserves should reach \$3 million, the equivalent of approximately three months' operating expenses.

A contributing factor to the strong results, Hill said, was that the Club cut the size of its losses during the traditionally slow months of July and August.

**President's Report**

President Bjerga said he was pleased with the way the Club's committees had performed this year.

He noted that the Speakers Committee, chaired by Andrew Schneider, had brought in more than half of President Obama's Cabinet-level appointments as luncheon speakers.

He also said that this year's Fourth Estate Award Dinner honoring CBS Correspondent Bob Schieffer on Oct. 15 was a near sell-out. He said that in keeping with Schieffer's wishes, it was not necessary to wear a black tie for the event.

Bjerga also announced that:

---A new archivist has joined the staff from this month. He is Jeffrey A. Scholsberg, who previously was at the Newseum, where he had successfully proposed acquisition of a \$6 million purchase of a comprehensive privately owned collection of more than 35,000 historic newspaper editions spanning approximately 500 years of print journalism history.

---The new Director of Broadcast Operations, Vija Udenans, has joined from ABC News, where she was director of broadcast operations for the DC bureau and White House producer. She has won numerous awards.

### **New Business:**

- **Membership Approves Changes Streamlining and Rationalizing of Club's Membership Categories**

The membership meeting unanimously approved by voice vote a motion presented by Membership Secretary Angela Greiling Keane streamlining the number of the main membership categories to two from 12 and the number of sub-categories to 20 from 49.

The motion also approved renaming the categories. The former Active category members are now Journalist members and former Affiliate and Associate members are now Communicators.

Keane said the changes will make joining and marketing the Club simpler as well as to better recognize the contributions of Communicator members, many of whom are just as "active" in the Club as are members formerly known as Actives.

The changes also makes Spouse/Partner memberships automatic renewals, like other membership categories, meaning you will no longer have to request a new spouse card each year.

The changes do not affect who can become a Club member, Keane said.

- **President of the Eric J. Friedheim National Journalism Library Board Becomes Ex-officio Member of NPC Board**

The membership also approved unanimously by voice vote a Constitutional change to have the president of the Eric J. Friedheim National Journalism Library board serve as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the NPC Board of Governors, a change that NPC president Bjerga said reflected the importance of the Library to the Club.

In a brief Q&A session, one member said he would prefer if the membership meetings could take place at noon, as in the past, instead of at 6pm. Bjerga said the member's comment would be considered when scheduling future membership meetings.

Another member asked why the president of the Eric Friedheim National Journalism Library Board would not be able to vote on the NPC Board. Bjerga said this was not possible because the Library Board president is not elected by the membership.

The meeting ended with applause as Club member Ron Baygents told Bjerga: "You're doing a great job, buddy, growing the Club in the right direction."

The Club's annual membership meeting was set for Friday, Jan. 21, 2011. The time will be announced later. The autumn membership meeting adjourned at 7pm.

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