

National Press Club
Board of Governors
March 21, 2011
Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice Chairman John M. Donnelly.
Present: President Mark Hamrick, Vice President Keith Hill, Treasurer Myron Belkind, Membership Secretary Angela Greiling Keane, Club Secretary Joel Whitaker, John Donnelly, John Hughes, Patrick McGrath, Mike Soraghan, Mark Wojno, Ed Barks, Shawn Bullard, Rodrigo Valderrama.
Staff Present: General Manager William McCarren and Membership Director Melinda Cooke.
Absent: Immediate Past President Alan Bjerga, Chairman Theresa Werner, Library President Richard Dunham.

2. Club Secretary Joel Whitaker moved approval of the Minutes. The motion passed.

3. Membership Report (Angela Greiling Keane)

- a. On a motion by Keane, the following new members were approved:

Journalist:

Laura Haim – Canal Plus, White House Correspondent – U.S. Bureau Chief; Paul Hughes – Bloomberg News; Barbara Cochran – University of Missouri, Professor; Alexander X. Mooney – The national Journalism Center, Executive Director; Ivan Semeniuk – Nature Publishing Group, Chief of Correspondents

Journalist Young Member:

Shirin Yaseen – Radio Sawa, Radio Broadcaster; Timothy Warren – Warren Communications News, Reporter; Kasra Nazarl Kangarll – Need To Know News, Economics Reporter; Ching-Yi Chang – Phoenix TV, Foreign Correspondent; Yu-Ting Wang – Warren Communications News, Reporter; Jennifer Schonberger – Kiplinger, Staff Writer; Lila Ibrahim – The Associated Press, Producer

Communicator:

Lorenzo Ravano – Embassy of Monaco, Counselor, Deputy Chief of Mission; Keiichiro Nakazawa – Japan International Cooperation Agency U.S.A. Office, Chief Representative;

Communicator News Source:

Crystal S. Wright – Baker Wright Group, Principal; Hassan Luis Sudler – Archer Media Networks, President; Chirs Robichaux – Mortgage Insurance Agencies of America, Director of Communications

Communicator News Source Young Member:

George West – KSDB Radio Kansas State, Radio Announcer

Communicator Student:

Eliza Ronalds-Hannon – Graduate School of Journalism; Daniel Collins – National Journalism Center, Intern; Bilal Ali Siddiqui – George Washington University; Sarah Tung – Hearst News Bureau, Intern; Katie Perkowski – Hearst News Bureau, Intern; Molly Harbarger - Hearst News Bureau, Intern; Renee Villasenor – CNN, Intern

- b. On a motion by Keane, applications for transfer to retired status were approved,

4. Proposed House Rules change (Greiling Keane)

On a motion by Keane, the following change to House Rules was adopted unanimously:

1. The National Press Club has a policy that allows members to have a house account so those members can charge: restaurant, bar, library and Club events. To do this, the house account must be guaranteed by a member's credit card. To set up a house account, members must make arrangements with the Membership Department. House accounts will be billed monthly, and if the entire amount is not paid by the 15th of the following month, it will be charged to the member's credit card. Any member whose balance is not cleared within 90 days will lose house-charging privileges and the account will be referred to the Budget Committee for further action. Any member with a balance over 90 days delinquent is subject to immediate suspension. Payments to member accounts must be made by mail or in the NPC office during normal business hours.

a. Additionally, members have up to 90 days to dispute house account charges or consider charges accepted.

b. Repeat Offenders: Members who continuously violate the rules governing house accounts will be considered in violation of this privilege and will be recommended to the Budget Committee for permanent lost of privilege.

4. Boisterous and unseemly conduct or language in or about the Club premises or in connection with any Club-sponsored event is prohibited. Any member so offending shall be liable for immediate suspension by any member of the board or the manager or his designee pending investigation by the board, which will render final action.

4a. It is the policy of the National Press Club to promote a safe and productive environment for its members and staff. Verbal or physical conduct by a member that harasses (including sexual harassment), disrupts or interferes with the work performance by staff or the experience of members or which creates an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment will not be tolerated. Any member so offending shall be liable for immediate suspension by any member of the board or the manager or his/her designee pending investigation by the board, which will render final action.

During discussion, Keane confirmed that if a Board member was in a discussion with another member that threatened to escalate to the level that good order and manners would be violated, the Board member could suspend the member on the spot.

With regard to the financial policies, Keane explained that the previous policy was to allow members to carry a balance not greater than \$250 from month to month. Some members have used this as a permanent loan; hence the new 90-day rule.

5. The following procedural membership motion by Keane was approved unanimously:
I move to amend the articles of incorporation to codify existing practice to allow members to remain in the same membership category upon retirement from full-time employment by adding this line: Members may remain in the same membership category upon retirement from full-time employment.
6. A Motion by Belkind to appoint Ken Mellgren member of the Board of Governors to fill the unexpired term of Jessica Brady was approved unanimously.
7. The Board entered Executive Session to consider nominees for the Fourth Estate Award. After discussion, the board exited Executive Session and returned to the normal public order of business.
8. Scholarship for Journalism Diversity Guidance (Shawn Bullard). On motion by Bullard, the following policy was approved unanimously:

NPC Scholarship for Journalism Diversity Guidance for Disbursement of Funds After First Year

The scholarship winner should provide a brief review of his/her year of study and outline plans for the coming year to demonstrate how he/she is preparing for a career in journalism. The submission should not exceed 500 words. Please include major(s), minor(s) and, if applicable, three examples of work, broadcast or published, during the year.

The winner's submission must be acceptable to the Scholarship Committee's chairperson, the committee's board liaison and the National Press Club's president in order for the funds to be disbursed. A journalism major or minor automatically qualifies the winner for the next year of funding. Alternatively, the winner must show to the satisfaction of the three reviewers that he/she is pursuing a career in journalism and provide examples of his/her published/broadcast work. If there is disagreement, the winner will be informed and may provide supplemental evidence; the matter should then be presented to the board for a vote.

Deadline for the submission: 90 days before the next payment is due. National Press Club Scholarship Committee staff liaison should inform scholarship winner of the payment deadline by Jan. 31. NPC staff liaison must notify winner of the deadline within 180 days before the next payment is due.

In the event that the Club were not to disburse the full amount of the scholarship to the selected winner, it would remain in the Scholarship for Journalism Diversity account.

9. Committee Liaison reports
Board liaisons reported on committee activities.

International Correspondents Committee (Belkind):

Upcoming events:

--March 30: Lichtenstein Embassy Night

--April 1: Memorial Remembrance for Gene Kramer

--April 14: Discussion on Pakistan led by Anatol Lieven, chair of international relations and terrorism studies in the War Studies Department at King's College London and author of a newly published book, "Pakistan, A Hard Country"

Photography Committee (Belkind):

Kevin Morris, commercial photographer, will speak to the Photography Committee on Wednesday, March 30, at noon, in the McClendon Room. Morris will discuss various aspects of commercial photography, including some specific photographic techniques, with our members. Morris has a number of clients including: Estee Lauder, NY Times, Sony music, Nordstroms, American Express, GM, De Beers, Oleg Cassini, and many others.

10. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Myron Belkind reported on the financial status of the Club. Of particular interest, he reported that business in February offset the weather-related decline in January.

11. Executive Director William McCarren discussed staff matters.

12. President Mark Hamrick briefed the Board on his activities. He has been especially focused on press freedom issues.

13. A Motion to set next meeting for April 18, 2011, was approved unanimously.

14. On a motion, the Board adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

JOEL WHITAKER
Club Secretary