

**National Press Club
Board of Governors
August 19, 2011
Minutes**

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Theresa Werner at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Theresa Werner, President Mark Hamrick, Vice President Keith Hill, Club Secretary Joel Whitaker, Membership Secretary Angela Greiling Keane, Vice Chairman John Donnelly, Immediate Past President Alan Bjerga, Patrick McGrath, Mike Soraghan, Mark Wojno, Rodrigo Valderrama, Ken Mellgren, Treasurer Myron Belkind, Ed Barks, John Hughes, Library President Richard Dunham.

Absent: Shawn Bullard.

Staff Present: General Manager William McCarren and Director of Membership Retention Sarahanne Driggs.

2. Approval of Minutes. On motion by Whitaker/Valderrama, the minutes of the July board meeting were approved.

3. Membership

On motion by Keane/Wojno, after discussion, the following membership applications, having been recommended by the Membership Committee, were approved:

Journalist

John R. Grano – Christian Post, Senior Managing Editor; William R. Koenig – Koenig International, White House Correspondent; Fermin Lares – Tal Cual, Washington Correspondent; John Kolucar – Associated Press, Broadcast Sports Supervisor; Kaznhiro Aoyama – Nippon TV, Bureau Chief; Mi-Kung Jung – Dong-A Ilbo Washington Bureau, Correspondent; John Michael Williams – Assistive Technology News, Reporter.

Journalist Non-Resident

Lena Lewis (Philadelphia, PA) – Fox 29 News, Reporter; David P. Karas (Brick, NJ) - The Times of Trenton, Reporter; Catherine Ngai (New York, NY)- Thomas Reuters, Commissioning Editor.

Journalist Young Member

Lewis E. McCrary – The American Conservative Magazine, Senior Editor; Elaine Mui – Voice of Russia, Reporter; Blair Chancey – Food News Media, Editorial Director; Kimberly J. Brown – Voice of Russia, Host of Weekday Radio Show; Jared Rizzi – Sirius XM Satellite Radio, Producer & Washington Correspondent; Mark David Szakonyi – Journal of Commerce, Editor; Rachel Witkowski – American Banker, Reporter; Roya Stephens – Thomson Reuter, Reporter/Producer; Ayuko Hirano – Nippon TV, Correspondent; Allen Gannet – George Washington University, Freelance.

Journalist Non-Resident Retired

Jeffrey Prussin (Pebble Beach, CA) – Washington Institute, Editor/Publisher.

Communicator

Don Podesta – Center for International Media Assistance, Manager & Editor; Dick Custin – U.S. Department of State, Foreign Press Center, Deputy Director; Thomas Young – Novelist.

Communicator News Source

Barbara Keebler – Momenum Magazine & NCEA Notes, Communications Director & Editor; James L. Rogers – Kaiser Permanente, Director of Public Relations; Samuel Wells – Sodexo Inc., Director of Public Relations; Rebecca Snyder – Federal News Service, Vice President/General Manager; Susan Matthews Apgood – News Generation, Inc., President, Co-Founder; James V. Parenti – Georgetown University, Associate Dean Global Institute; Brenda Simms – IMSolutions, LLC, Consultant/Writer.

Communicator Non-Resident

Michael Brenner (Austin, TX) – University of Texas, Director, International Relations; William G. Hyland, Jr. (Palm Harbor, FL) – Law Offices of Jack D. Evans, Professor; Dylan Miyake (Harpsswell, ME) – Nonfiction Author.

Communicator Young Member

Patrick Kiker – American Council for Energy Efficient Economy, Communications Associate.

Student

Traci Snyder – American University; Paulette Waltz – Georgetown University.

Keane/Wojno moved approval of applications for transfer to retired journalists status and dues waivers. Motion was approved.

On a motion by Keane/Sorahan, the board approved the following new policies pertaining to student/intern members and reinstatement of members:

Student/Intern Policy

Intern memberships in the National Press Club are listed as Student 2.

There is a separate break out of these memberships similar to spouse memberships.

Intern membership must be paid in full before the internship begins and students would only receive a paper card.

If at the end of the internship the student wanted to join the Club on their own, they may but have to reapply as a full student member.

Intern memberships are only available for the following terms and price points: (We do not allow for monthly payments or for interns to be members for one month unless there are extreme circumstances.)

- o Fall : September - December \$100
- o Spring: January - May \$100
- o Summer: June - August \$75

Future Goal - To work to toward giving interns more for their money, we ask for more coordination between the Club committees and college intern coordinators. We can consider

asking the young members committee to devote one event a semester to our interns and asking coordinators to assist and require attendance.

Reinstatement Policy

The Club's Membership Department will charge a fee for suspended/resigned members with the following stipulations.

- \$100 will be charged to all members who were "suspended" for more than one year. (non-dues paying suspension means they did not formally resign from the Club)
- If there are any pending house account charges, the member will have to bring their house account up to date before membership can begin.
- This fee will be charged either at the time of the application or when approved for reinstatement along with one month of dues.
- Members who have been suspended and want to reinstate within a 12 month period must pay back dues and house account charges from the time of non-payment.
- Members who formally resign membership and return their membership card as outlined in house rules will not have to pay a reinstatement fee but may still have to bring house account up to date to begin membership.

Note: House rules already stipulate that a member is responsible for dues until they formally resign and turn in their membership cards.

4. Committee Liaison Reports –

International Correspondents Committee (Belkind):

Mahtab Farid, a member of the International Correspondents Committee who recently returned from spending a year in Afghanistan doing public diplomacy work, will speak about journalism in Afghanistan and how the profession is evolving in the country in the McClendon Room at 6:30pm Wednesday, Sept. 21. She also will discuss some of her personal stories of training about 100 reporters in Bagram province where there were no female **journalists** but two of the women whom she trained covered the parliamentary elections for the first time in the history of their province.

And two more events are planned for the autumn, for which Keith Hill of our committee has taken the initiative:

- There will be a Luxembourg Embassy Night on Wednesday, Oct. 26.
- The Taiwan Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington is will host a reception and briefing on Thursday evening, Dec. 8.

Photography Committee (Belkind):

The 12th annual Members' Photo Exhibit will begin with a reception from 6-8pm on Thursday, Sept. 1.

Travel Committee (Hill)

Broadcast (Mellgren)

The Committee is partnering with the George Washington Global Media Institute to produce a one hour radio program, "This Just In."

Library (Dunham)

The Library Board approved creation of the National Press Club Journalism Institute, and is working to produce a video explaining what the Institute is and does.

History and Heritage (Wojno)

Publications

Professional Development (Bjerga)

There will be a Sept. 19 seminar on how to use Google.

Newsmakers

Diversity Committee (Keane)

Awards (Sorahan)

The Awards Dinner was a success.

Book and Author (Barks)

Communications and Marketing (Barks)

Press Freedom (Hughes)

Books and Brunch (Valderrama)

House (Valderrama)

For the second consecutive year, the Reliable Source was not profitable. "Dinner and a Movie" had such a low turnout they are considering stopping it. (General Manager Bill McCarren noted that both restaurants "had a bad July, and we don't know why.")

5. Treasurer's Report

Despite a disappointing July, profits are ahead of last year but below budget. Control of costs by staff was outstanding: Our costs were below budgeted costs. But revenue was short of budget. Membership revenue was above budget in July.

The outlook is good as long as dismal economic news doesn't affect us. Thus far, the club has been relatively immune to national economic news.

On a motion, the board moved into the Committee of the Whole to discuss library repayment of debt owed to the Club.

After discussion, it was moved by Belkind/Hill that the Committee of the Whole adopt the sense of the Budget Committee that the Library repay its debt over two years without interest.

Valderrama wondered if it would be better for the library to take three years to pay off the debt, rather than to be under pressure to pay it in two.

Bjerga, who is Library treasurer, said the Library currently has sufficient funds to pay off its debts tomorrow. But it is being cautious because the Library is dependent on its fundraising cycle, and two of its big fundraisers are later this year. Two years seems reasonable, he said.

Dunham noted that there is almost enough money in the Library's Reserve to cover its debt. This is a spur for fundraising, he said.

Keane said it is easier to raise money if there isn't a huge debt on the balance sheet when you show it to prospective donors.

The discussion having concluded, the motion was approved unanimously.

Hughes/Valderrama moved to leave the Committee of the Whole, which was approved unanimously. Belkind/Hughes then moved the Board approve a sense of the Board motion that the Library repay its debt to the Club over two years, without interest.

6. Executive Director

Executive Director William McCarren reported on business operations.

7. President's Report

President Mark Hamrick discussed the Awards Dinner, noting there was a real sense of continuity from Richard C. Hottelet to Lara Logan.

Hamrick said he met with the Chief of Protocol at the U.S. State Department, who coordinates official visits by Heads of State, and learned that no one had made the case that when foreign leaders visit Washington, the Press Club is one of their best options for press conferences and other events. "This is something that needs to be nurtured," he said, adding that NPC staff will help develop written material presenting various options at the Club. "We want them to know they can do one-stop shopping here," he said.

The Michelle Bachman luncheon got good press, and Ron Paul's appearance is coming up.

The NPC Fall Picnic will be Oct. 3 in Rock Creek Park.

8. New Business

- a. Treasurer Belkind led a discussion of 2012 budget assumptions. The assumptions included no dues increase, but an increase in discounted prices charged for drinks during

Happy Hour. McCarren noted that “it’s not as much about how well we’re doing as a business as it is about the economic environment in which members are living. I’m not so sure really low drink prices bring people to the bar.”

9. On motion by Belkind/Bjorga the next board meeting was set for Sept. 19.

10. On motion by Hughes/Hill, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

JOEL WHITAKER
Secretary