

**National Press Club
Board of Governors
Meeting
April 23, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Hughes at 6:35 p.m.

Present: President Theresa Werner, Vice President Angela Greiling Keane, Secretary Joel Whitaker, Treasurer Myron Belkind, Membership Secretary Nyia Hawkins, John Donnelly, Patrick McGrath, Mark Wojno, Ken Mellgren, Ed Barks, John Hughes, Suzanne Struglinski, Shawn Ballard, Immediate Past President Mark Hamrick, NPC Journalism Institute President Richard Dunham,

Absent: Thomas Burr, Frederica Dunn,

Staff: Executive Director William McCarren

On motion by Whitaker/Donnelly, the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Membership

On Motion by Hawkins/Bullard, the following persons, having been recommended by the Membership Committee, were approved:

Name	Affiliation	Sponsor
Journalist		
Ginger Colbrun ATF/ DOJ	Public Affairs Specialist Committee	Membership
Yoshikazu Shirakawa Washington Correspondent	Yomiuri Shimbun Committee	Membership
Michael Hughes Geopolitics	Examiner.com Tejinder Singh	The Huffington Post
Journalist Young Member		
Jennifer Judson Associate Editor	Inside Washington Publishers- Inside the Army Committee	Membership
Journalist Retired		
Camille Bohannon Anchor & Reporter	Retired from AP Radio Nyia Hawkins	Ken Mellgren
Takashi Oshima Diplomatic Correspondent	The Asahi Shimbun Junji Tachino	Hiroshi Ito
Herman Hakim Correspondent	Kompas Morning Daily Committee	Membership
Gary Feuerberg Washington Correspondent & Editor	The Epoch Times Committee	Membership
Akio Fujii Bureau Chief	Nikkei Newspaper	Itaru Oishi
Patricia Baca Designer/ Photographer	Al Jazeera English Committee	Membership

Robert M Cutler	Asia Times Online	Jerry Zremski
Energy Security & Asian Finance Correspondent	Julian Josephson	
Journalist Non Resident		
Angel Collado Schwarz	Univision Radio- Interview Program in PR	Membership
Regular Columnist in El Nucuodia	Committee	
David Francis Powell	Frontline Club	Membership
Blog- The Bradley Manning Hearings	Committee	
Glenda P. Murray Kelly	The Connectional Ministries & Mission 2000 Inc.	Membership
CEO, Editor in Chief	Committee	
Journalist Retired Non Resident		
James M.B. Keyser	World Security Network	Margaret Orchowski
Mid Atlantic Representative		
Communicator		
Govinda Giri Prerana	Vishwaparikrama (Nepali Fortnightly)	Membership
Chief Editor	Committee	
Cemil Alyanak	Self DBA 'Excess Noise'	Membership
Consultant	Committee	
Lee Snitzer	Delphi	John T Anderson
Director of Government Relations		
Charles Young*	U.S. Government Accountability Office	Membership
Managing Director, Handle media relations	Committee	
Lucillyn Susi	MacFadden & Associates	Membership
Committee		
Charles Denham	Journal Of Patient Safety	Membership
Editor In Chief	Committee	
Communicator - Young Member		
Erika Sikes	The Metro Series	P.K. Ewing
Creative Director		
Stacy R. Pace	PACE Group PLLC	Anna Miller
Consumer law attorney	Paul D. Shinkman	
Robert Schwartz	DS Simon Productions Inc.	Membership
Sales and Marketing Associate	Committee	
Jasmine Kurjakovic	Platts/McGraw-Hill	Membership
Account Manager	Committee	
Communicator Building Tenant Young Member		
Tyler Glembo	American Physical Society	Tawanda Johnson
Government Relations Specialist	Brian Mosley	
Communicator Non-Resident		
Gloria J. Browne-Marshall	John Jab College of Criminal Justice	Membership
Associate Professor of Constitutional Law	Committee	
Ruthann E. Saenger	Self-Employed	Membership
Consultant-Writer- Director of Legacy Project	Committee	

The total number of members as of April 1 was 3277. A year earlier, the Club has 3,285 members.

On motion by Hawkins/Donnelly, an application for nondues status was approved.

On motion by Hawkins/Donnelly, applications for retired status were approved.

On motion by Hawkins/McGrath, the request of Thomas Sweeney to be recategorized as a Retired Nonresident Journalist.

Hawkins reported that the Membership Committee is in the process of finalizing renewals and will begin processing suspensions on Monday, April 23.

An online payment and statement page is now up and running on the web, and the membership department would like to phase out paper statements and move to an all email statement policy, with opt-out option, by January 2013.

Fellowship Committee

Art Wiese, chairman of the Fellowship Committee addressed the board. He noted that the Fellowship Committee was intended to be different than other committees of the club because it deals with helping members who are down on their luck because of job loss, financial catastrophe, etc.

"We're in a situation unprecedented in journalism since the Great Depression, with journalists experiencing layoffs, downsizing, and similar purposes.

"The Fellowship Committee fund currently totals about \$65,000, mostly as a result of bequests. We want to put that money to the appropriate use. We don't just want it to sit there and collect interest.

"We propose that we supercede programs we currently have for helping people who are down on their luck and may have to resign from the club. We propose that we pay their dues for six months. At end of six months, if not in better financial shape, they could reapply for another six months. Assistance ends for one year.

"Our proposal keeps revenue for club, allows them to participate in training, to network etc. This will help them to stay professionally active, to be wired in to get new employment."

Committee Reports

NPC Journalism Institute (Richard Dunham)

The Alexander Smith McCall event netted around \$3,000. We had about 52 players for the NPCJI Golf Tournament. We got about \$25,000 in sponsorship fees, and expect to net around \$10,000.

The annual boot camp is scheduled for July 14. It will have multiple tracks on skills and how to get jobs.

Wojno recommended we send a thank you note to Ed Lewis for his work on the golf tournament. The sense of the board was that this is a good idea, and Wojno said he would write it.

Newsmakers (Shawn Bullard)

Scheduled:

At 4 p.m. Monday, April 23, in the Murrow Room, the head of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology and Egyptology at the American University in Cairo, Dr. Salima Ikram, will discuss **EGYPTOLOGY IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD: WHAT ANCIENT REMAINS OFFER TO MODERN SCIENCE** and **THE STATE OF ANTIQUITIES IN POST-REVOLUTIONARY EGYPT**. Ikram recently made news for her role in the discovery of prostate cancer in a 2,200-year-old Egyptian mummy, which suggested the genetic origins of the disease.

In the pipeline:

US Airways is interested in having CEO and Chairman Doug Parker speak at a Newsmaker on **US Airways proposed hostile takeover of American Airlines**, filing paperwork with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Friday, April 20. Here is a related link: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-500395_162-57417402/what-would-a-us-air-american-merger-mean-for-you/

Proposed for May 18, in connection with the NATO Summit taking place around that time in Chicago, would be the French ambassador to the United States and one or two members of Congress, who are on the Honorary Host Committee, to share their views on **U.S. and NATO involvement in Afghanistan**.

John Morton, director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, would discuss **legal and public policy efforts surrounding immigration enforcement, transnational criminal networks and intellectual property rights enforcement**.

Ralph Winnie, director of the Eurasian Business Coalition's China Program, would discuss **the future of China-Russia relations and how that affects the United States**. Winnie would also discuss the economic and political ramifications of the U.S.-China pivot in Southeast Asia.

He would also talk about the future of Skolkovo, Russia's new Silicon Valley, and how Russia's accession in the World Trade Organization likely will affect U.S.-Russia trade relations.

Awards Committee (Angela Greiling Keane)

Chairman Will Lester reports that following a campaign to promote knowledge of the Club's awards - particularly the lesser-known ones - the number of entries increase to 177 this year from 140 last year, a 26 percent increase. Categories with increases include the Free animal reporting award, the Ryle geriatric reporting award and a "respectable" showing of entries for the inaugural breaking news award. Awards packets will be available soon for judging panels to review. All judging panels are set.

Will is working with President Werner to set a date for the awards dinner in late July or early August. Werner will decide whether to award a president's citation.

Lester is exploring guidelines for creating a photo award and plans to present a proposal to the board after the awards dinner.

Events (Suzanne Struglinski)

The Events Committee is running three series in 2012:

- "Get It Online" (digital and social media), led by Kimberly Bender
- Political, led by Megan Cotten

- Social/Entertainment, led by Laura Berry

The full committee meets quarterly, and each series, or team, meets monthly. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 2 at 8 a.m.

The committee developed an Event Checklist to improve the event planning experience. This is still a working document that will likely be revised. Nonetheless, it serves as a useful tool. In case this has not been shared with the Board, I am attaching it.

The following events are in the planning stages:

- 4/30/2012 - "Get It Online" lunch with Jim Geraghty from the National Review
- 5/2012 - Jazz Night (date TBD)
- 6/18/2012 - "Get It Online" lunch with Niv Elis, Breaking News Editor and Blogger from the Jerusalem Post
- 7/2012 - panel on "Fact Checking" political campaigns
- 9/29/2012 - Evening event featuring John Perkins, author of Confessions of an Economic Hitman and Hoodwinked (Ballroom)
- 9-10/2012 - Presidential Debate Watches for members and their guests
- 11/6/2012 - Election Watch Party
- Ongoing - Dinner & a Movie

Under consideration:

Panel discussion about the Legacy of President Eisenhower (in relation to the new memorial, and the Club receiving a scale model of it)

Publications Committee (John Hughes)

Donna Leinwand Leger, chair, reports the committee has established its spring 2012 editor rotation. We welcome past NPC President Jonathan Salant and veteran Record editor Bill McCloskey into the rotation.

Here is the schedule:

March 25 to April 7: Donna Leinwand Leger (completed)

April 8 to April 21: Mark Schoeff

April 22 to May 5: Heather Forsgren Weaver

May 6 to May 19: Lorna Aldrich

May 20 to June 2: Jonathan Salant

June 3 to June 16: John Hughes

June 17 to June 30: Bill Miller

July 1 to July 14: Bill McCloskey

New Developments:

The Publications Committee has recruited a number of feature writers to write member profiles.

We have recently added an obituary section called "-30- In Memoriam" that is behind the members' firewall. The sections lists members who are deceased and links to their obits if they have been published. We are backfilling now and hope to have listing stretching back years as they are available.

House & Bar Committee (Patrick McGrath)

Susan Delbert reported that revenues from the 4th Estate and Reliable Source are down 16% from a year ago... not sure why.

Lots of successful events in the past month...Scotch Dinner, St. Patrick's Day, Lobster night and a Super Tuesday event with appetizers from the election states... there were "Buckeyes."

The DC Health Dept. staged a surprise inspection of the kitchen and gave it a 100% rating... Susan says it is rare for any restaurant to be given that perfect score.

Some Committee members reported complaints that many of the Club's computers for member use are not working...and urged that issue be corrected.

There was some discussion that the Health Club's locker room for men could use a little sprucing up.... and perhaps some free toiletries could be provided the way they are at other commercial health clubs.

The Reliable Source now has backgammon games available for members to play at the tables. Club member Ed Elgenfritz came to the aide of pool players, by donating four new pool cues. The old ones were warped and missing tips.

John Rahming, subcommittee co-chair for the Games room, said the regular poker players are unhappy that the ATM machine is gone.... players on a losing streak don't have access to quick cash to stay in the game

Travel Committee (Suzanne Struglinski)

The March Travel Committee reception went well, except that it ran out of food almost immediately. The chair has spoken to Patty Powers about that. It seems that the reception was just before the Kalb Report and some people going to that "dropped in" and ate and drank because we were right in the vicinity! About 10-15 people did that! For the Travel Committee, we had about 35 attendees. Don't know how you keep this kind of thing from happening since Club members are able to attend whatever!

May 19-30 -- Trip to Baltic Republics -- Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia -- has 13 people signed up to go.

July 4-12 -- Scotland -- promotion underway. Price: \$2845 per person double, \$655 single supplement, does not include air fare, which will be about \$1475.

Trips being worked up include the Canadian Rockies in August and Berlin in January.

Scholarships (Thomas Burr)

Andrea Snyder, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, addressed the board. The committee's 12 judges reviewed 41 applications and recommended Sean Hurd.

On **MOTION** by Wojno/Bullard/Donnelly, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation.

Young Members (Thomas Burr)

The Young Members committee continues to put on strong events for the under-35 crowd and beyond, and Chairman Paul Shinkman is offering up some new ideas to cover feedback he's received from his group.

Part of that is the new Young Member Mentor effort that seeks an informal setting for young members to ask questions of a more seasoned journalist. Sirius' Julie Mason sat down with some members Tuesday in the first of the series and others are planned in the future.

We're eventually hoping that effort, which is also spearheaded by Membership Secretary Nyia Hawkins, could also find a place in the member's section of the Club's website where younger journalists could pose questions or ask for guidance from the Club's other members. That may take more effort to flesh out but could be a successful and promising idea if we can make it work.

Thanks to President Werner, the non-member price for the "Social Media 4 Social Good" event was dropped from \$10 to \$5 and seemed to help make a difference in ticket sales. Last year was 44 attendees, 24 of which were non-members. Moving forward, Shinkman and I plan to propose reducing the \$10 minimum to a smaller amount, a move we believe would be helpful in ginning up numbers for YM events.

Shinkman is also exploring the idea of some Young Members volunteering with the homeless newspaper, Street Sense. Though we're still working out the details and asking President Werner for her guidance, the idea is to allow some young members on an ad hoc basis to help the newspaper's interns learn the news business and offer some feedback or answer questions along the way. Some light editing and proofreading may also be part of the equation. YMs could benefit from some experience while also helping out those less fortunate.

Another Pub Quiz is scheduled for May 10.

Book Fair (Angela Greiling Keane)

Chairwoman Dena Bunis reports that the committee is actively planning the annual book fair scheduled for Nov. 13. They're looking for an honorary chair as the marquee name for the event and for sponsors to replicate last year's successful raffle held at the fair. The decision is to not have an exclusive media sponsor as was done last year with the goal of maximizing media organization sponsorships by not limiting it to one. The committee suggests adding a line mentioning the book fair and the date to the NPC luncheon boilerplate text as it gets closer to November.

The committee also reports a successful April 14 Saturday book event with author Alexander McCall Smith. The audience was plentiful and attendees were engaged. NPC library staff member Nicole Hoffman had worked on the author's publicist for years and successfully secured his NPC appearance as the only U.S. appearance this year.

Book and Author Committee (Ed Barks)

Upcoming Book Events:

April 11: Josh Meyer, *The Hunt for KSM*

April 14: Alexander McCall Smith, *The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection*. 110 individuals have registered

April 24: Paul Dickson, *Bill Veeck*

May 10: Tom Curley, *Ed Kennedy's War*

May 22: Timothy Gay, *Assignment to Hell*

June 14: Lizz Winstead, *Lizz Free or Die*

September 19: Jeffrey Toobin, *The Oath*

Update on Event Proposals:

Madeline Albright, Dan Rather, and Douglas Brinkley are all nos for various scheduling reasons. June dates with David Sanger and Ridley Pearson are still being pursued, and James

Carville is a possibility for July. Inquiries have been sent to Julie Garwood and Craig Brown for August, and to Kofi Annan and Thomas Ricks for September.

A new Marvel Comics novel line is being kicked off with Stuart Moore's *Civil War*. It comes out June 6, and the author is looking at four options now. This has the potential to draw a significant -- and younger -- audience to the club.

NPC member Tom Young's *The Renegades* about the Afghan War has a July 19 publication date, and the committee voted to schedule a book rap with him.

August candidates include Julie Garwood and Elie Wiesel.

NPCJI has announced that Donna Leinwand will be its liaison to the Book and Author Committee, which formally reports to NPCJI.

The next meeting is May 8 in the McClendon Room.

Communications & Marketing Committee (Ed Barks)

Communications and Marketing is working to organize a number of events:

-- A panel discussion with national financial reporters talking about covering the nation's economy and how financial issues will impact the presidential race. NPC member Kathy King, a SVP at Fleishman Hillard, is organizing this event.

-- An updated version of last year's successful series of social media primers on using LinkedIn, Twitter and online video by fellow committee members Anthony Shop and Thomas Sanchez. They've volunteered to again host this series that provided revenue last year.

-- A "Social Media Circle," an informal discussion in a happy hour setting for members to share information and lessons learned about using online communications. Committee members say they would like to take their social media efforts to the next level, and that a good way to learn is by hearing from other members on how they are using online communications in their work.

-- Another Communicators networking breakfast similar to the popular reception the committee held last month. Many members at that event said mornings are the best time in their schedules for these meetings.

-- Dinner with a notable Washington, D.C., communications professional.

Broadcast Committee (Ken Mellgren)

Google/YouTube Channel

Our sub-committee on content distribution has been exploring a possible agreement with Google/YouTube for a video distribution channel which could fund an expansion of our BOC production including new equipment and staff, completely supported by a multi-year grant-like agreement to provide content.

This is an experiment funded by Google which would utilize current and future NPC program content which has the potential of creating a new revenue stream in the future.

This sub-committee is under the direction of Ralph Malvik who has had experience in the startup of the Learning Channel cable network and was General Manager of WETA Radio.

There are many issues to be considered and resolved to our satisfaction such as limited exclusivity, management of advertising sales revenue, distribution funds, etc. but we believe there is a significant future potential for both a broadening of our NPC brand, new funding for

both capital equipment and staff paid for by Google with virtually no cost or risk to the NPC and eventually a new revenue stream.

Once more of our questions are resolved, we will work with Bill McCarren, Theresa Werner and John Hughes to review and hopefully move forward. We are working closely with Vija Udenans as we continue to explore this exciting possibility.

Broadcast Committee Helps Fund Tri-pod

The Broadcast Committee has agreed to contribute from its budget 50% of the cost to replace the damaged tri-pod used by the BOC interns to capture more of the club events. Bill McCarren has agreed to contribute the remaining 50% from his budget. The request came from Vija Udenans.

Freelance Committee (Frederica Dunn)

Freelance radio journalist and new NPC member Martin DiMarco spoke to the Freelance committee March 26. He shared his techniques to put together compelling and professional audio reporter pieces complete with audio clips (quotes to a print journalist), background sounds that enhance the story and sharp visual radio journalism narrative. DiMarco has developed his career into three high-quality "permalancer" gigs with National Public Radio, AP and a new radio station in DC, after working as a staff radio journalist in New York City with ESPN and AP for several years.

- April 16 Director of the Fund for Investigative Journalism
- May 21 Book Design expert on publishing a book.

Photo Committee (Frederica Dunn)

- National Geographic photographer Lynn Abercrombie shared photos and stories of her travel adventures around the world with her late husband Tom on March 23.
- Rock and Roll photographer Tom G. O'Neal spoke of his experiences at a well attended reception on April 11.

History & Heritage (Marc Wojno)

The Committee has embraced the CD-reissue of Louis Armstrong's January 1971 performance at the National Press Club, which will be made available at a special press conference event at the Club on April 27. (It is believed to be the last recording of Armstrong five months before he passed away. The Club worked with the Armstrong estate and the Smithsonian in making possible this reissue.) The Committee is planning to prepare a jazz appreciation week at the Club later this year (date TBD) to commemorate Jazz and its influence on the NPC (with special focus of Armstrong's 1971 appearance for the NPC presidential inaugural of then-president Vernon Louviere). The Committee is working with Louviere's daughter to get photos of the original event and with Mark Russell to get a testimonial of what happened that evening.

Books & Brunch (Marc Wojno)

The Committee is meeting April 21 in the Fourth Estate Restaurant to discuss "Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey" by Fiona Carnarvon. The Committee will also meet on May 19 to discuss the novel "The Privileges" by Jonathan Dee.

Press Freedom (John Donnelly)

At the committee's April 2 meeting, we met with a representative of the International Press Institute and promised to keep each other informed about each other's work and look for ways to cooperate.

We'll be talking about annual John Aubuchon Press Freedom Awards shortly in exec session

We have several things happening the first week of May:

a. May 1 event with Overseas Press Club of America:

A panel of noted journalists and writers, plus a former spokesman for the Justice Department, will discuss the Obama administration's crusade against leaks of government secrets -- and against some of the journalists who report them-- at 6:30 p.m. on May 1 at the National Press Club.

The administration, which took office vowing to protect whistle-blowers, has repeatedly cracked down on leakers, invoking the Espionage Act in six cases. Several journalists have been threatened with prosecution for publishing what whistle-blowers have told them, and James Risen of The New York Times has been repeatedly subpoenaed to testify against an accused leaker.

Risen will appear on the panel with James Bamford, author of "The Puzzle Palace," a book about the National Security Agency; and Matthew Miller, who served as the Justice Department's public affairs director for the Obama administration's first two years.

Jake Tapper of ABC, who challenged the administration's policy on leaks at a White House press briefing in February, will moderate.

Risen's subpoena to testify in the case against Jeffrey Sterling, a former CIA officer who is accused of leaking details about efforts to sabotage the Iranian nuclear program, was dismissed by federal judge Leonie Brinkema.

She said Risen was entitled to protect his sources and that the government had not shown that his testimony was needed to make the case. The government is appealing that ruling.

Bamford's book was partially based on documents he got through the Freedom of Information Act. He was twice threatened with prosecution for failing to return them after the NSA had the documents "reclassified" as top secret.

More recently, Bamford was instrumental in collapsing the Espionage Act case against Thomas Drake, a former NSA official who was charged with 10 felony counts for telling a reporter that an NSA software monitor program was both intrusive on privacy and ineffective.

Bamford showed that the alleged secrets Drake told were actually unclassified, and the case was settled as a misdemeanor with no penalty.

Miller, who defended the Drake case, has since called it "ill-considered," though he has argued the administration's overall record in prosecuting officials over leaks is important to protecting national security.

Tapper challenged White House spokesman Jay Carney on the administration's apparent double standard on reporting. Carney had said the late foreign correspondents Marie Colvin and Anthony Shadid had died "in order to bring truth."

But Tapper replied that the U.S. government seemed to believe that "the truth should come out abroad; it shouldn't come out here." Carney did not reply directly.

b. May 2 6pm Reliable Source: informal Happy Hour with Freedom House panelists on May 3 event.

c. May 3 event with Freedom House (9:30-11 a.m., Holeman Lounge)

“Freedom of the Press 2012: Breakthroughs and Pushback in the Middle East”

Join Freedom House and the National Press Club on World Press Freedom Day, May 3, for the launch of Freedom House’s annual survey of press freedom around the globe: “Freedom of the Press 2012: Breakthroughs and Pushback in the Middle East.”

Freedom House will release the findings of its annual survey at the event, and panelists from Egypt, Mexico and Hungary will discuss the changes underway in their countries.

Panel:

Introduction: National Press Club President Theresa Werner

Moderator: Mona el-Tahawy, Journalist and Commentator

Courtney Radsch, Freedom House, Freedom of Expression Campaign Sr. Program Manager

Nancy Okail of Egypt, Freedom House’s Egypt Field Director

Margarita Torres of Mexico, journalist and co-founder of Periodistas de a Pie

András Kósa of Hungary, head of the News Department for HVG.hu

d. Video presentation on continuous loop of finalists in NN/Reporters without Borders college competition: Why we should care about freedom of information.

* * *

Vice chairman wanted. I am looking for member or members to help me address the growing role of the committee.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Myron Belkind reported that March profits were 14% above budget. March's revenue is the best since June, which set a revenue record for the club. Costs were below budget. March is the best real test of our ability to perform in an environment that's good for business -- no holidays, no bad weather.

Our union has agreed to swap Columbus Day for Monday, Dec. 24. This will give us a four-day weekend for the Christmas Holiday, but we pick up Columbus Day as a regular business day.

MOTION by Belkind/Wojno that the Club be open on Columbus Day and closed on Dec. 24. The motion was approved unanimously.

Draft Audit Report

Belkind discussed the draft audit report, and said the auditors were pleased with what they saw. The auditors said the Club is in very good cash position compared to a few years ago, and if our performance in 2011 is typical of all future years, the Club won't have much to worry about financially.

The board will vote on the audit report in May.

Executive Director's Report –

Executive Director William McCarren said April isn't looking too good, but we expect 2012 to be okay. We're not sure we'll make our \$3 million cash/reserves goal this year, but we'll be close.

We have not reached an agreement with the union yet, but we expect to soon.

The board had a discussion about the ongoing advertising related to Harris Corp. in the club lobby. Harris had donated a number of screens throughout the club several years ago. Following the discussion, the board unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION (Donnelly/Mellgren): NPC commends and thanks Harris Corp. for its generous contributions of technology and authorizes the Executive Director to pursue alternative audio/visual solutions for the lobby.

President's Report

We had a successful Dinner with the President and Meet the Press Club.

Strategic Planning Committee

Chairwoman Angela Greiling Keane provided a quarterly report on the strategic plan. Among the highlights:

-- The Club is working to insure that all professional development sessions are available on the members-only section of the Club's website.

-- Management has explored the viability of an all-day coffee bar in the Reliable Source or elsewhere and concluded that the best option would be to install a single-serving coffee machine on the 13th floor that could sell one cup at a time.

-- Management is working to develop an online reservations system, to be operational by year-end.

-- The Club has begun an annual orientation session for new Board members. This session will be held between the Club elections and the first board meeting of the new year.

-- The club is on its way to meeting its plan-mandated reserves of \$3.5 million by the end of 2013.

Press Freedom

On motion by Wojno/Donnelly, the Board went into the executive session to discuss the winner of the Press Freedom Award. After discussion, on the motion of Wojno/Mellgren, the board ended the executive session and resumed the regular order of business.

New Business

Restoring Poster in Lobby

Belkind/McGrath/Mellgren moved that a poster in connection with an exhibit of rock and roll photographs be restored to the area of the display case. After discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion failed, 4 votes in favor, 6 opposed.

For: Belkind, McGrath, Wojno, Melgren.

Opposed: Werner, Keane, Whitaker, Hawkins, Donnelly, Hughes

The chair declared that, without objection a letter to the chair from a member would be included in the minutes. (The letter is appended to these minutes).

Assigning Responsibility for Display Case

On **MOTION** by Whitaker/Donnelly, after discussion, the following motion was adopted on a voice vote:

WHEREAS, the National Press Club has as its mission to promote the ethical practice of journalism and the promotion of a free press,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB:

The Exhibit Case in the lobby is to be used exclusively to promote the history and heritage of the National Press Club, the history of journalism in the United States, and the preservation of the freedom of the press which is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

1. Under no circumstances is space in the Exhibit Case --
 - a. To be leased or sold to any group,
 - b. Used by sponsors of Club events,
 - c. Used for any display that can reasonably be interpreted as endorsing, condoning or celebrating illegal activity.

2. Responsibility: The History & Heritage Committee, or its successor, is responsible for administering this policy. The Committee shall review proposals, which should include a description of each exhibit, and report its recommendation to the Board of Governors, which shall have final authority.

Adjournment

The next board meeting was scheduled for May 21. There being no further business, on Motion by Hawkins/Donnelly, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

JOEL WHITAKER
Club Secretary

Appendix

Letter from Member

April 13, 2012

Dear John,

I respectfully request an opportunity to appear before the Board of Governors of the National Press Club to urge Board members to reverse the decision of NPC President Theresa Werner and club manager Bill McCarren to ban the poster that was intended as the opening panel for the ongoing Rock and Roll photo exhibit by Tom Gundelfinger O'Neal due to the use of the words "I Inhaled."

As a long-time Press Club member and Washington journalist, I find these actions to be an affront to the First Amendment's guarantees of free press, free speech and free expression. Banning two words because they fail to meet someone's view of political correctness is an unacceptable action under any circumstance, but it is even more egregious when this action is taken at the National Press Club. The NPC fights for those rights on a regular basis by taking stands in favor of journalists around the world. To engage in censorship in our own club is beyond belief.

There have been many misstatements since Tuesday afternoon, April 10, which was the first time Rick Pullen and I, via Noel St. John of the Photography Committee, heard that Bill McCarren had ordered that our poster be taken down and not displayed because of the words "I inhaled." I found it inconceivable that a paid staff member of the NPC could make a decision to censor an exhibit, so I immediately appealed to Theresa Werner and Frederica Dunn, our photography committee liaison. Rick Pullen talked to both Werner and Bill McCarren, and Werner said it was her decision.

Both Werner and McCarren later would attempt to backpedal and try to justify this decision by offering some lame excuses other than acknowledging the out-and-out censorship that clearly is involved here. Suggestions have been made that Rick and I failed to follow proper procedures, failed to request use of the bump-out areas next to the glass display case in the lobby, failed to clear the content of the exhibit with the Club and various other supposed oversights. But when we asked to see the rules we supposedly violated, we were told that they don't exist but that the Board is in the process of drafting them. The failure of Werner and McCarren to defend their decision for what it is, right or wrong, and to try to weasel out of it on some alleged technicality is almost as offensive as the censorship itself.

Let me state very clearly that Rick and I followed every step and procedure that we were aware of to handle this properly. And we have a string of emails to document that. As you will see from the exchanges I have reproduced below, I first contacted you and Theresa on February 6 about this exhibit, asking for approval of the president and the Board for use of the glass case and the left bump-out panel for the exhibit. You responded that my request would be put before the Board at its next meeting and that Frederica Dunn would handle that presentation since she was the Photography Committee liaison. I then wrote to Frederica giving her further details of the photo exhibit and requesting use of both bump-out panels by the glass display case. Rick and I volunteered to attend the Board meeting to answer questions or further explain the exhibit but were told that would not be necessary.

We subsequently were informed that the Board had approved our request. No restrictions. No limitations. No pre-clearance. No political correctness standard. We then moved forward to have this exhibit professionally designed using the two bump-out areas and the display case in our plans, along with the eight panels for the actual photo displays. We were in regular contact with Noel St. John of the Photography Committee and Club staff members, and they helped us install the exhibit on Friday, April 6.

It is important for you all to understand that the poster in question was not just some after-thought. It was to be the opening panel for the whole exhibit, explaining the reason the album

covers were in the display case and providing a cohesive link to the photos on the panels in the main entrance area. There is nothing – I repeat nothing – in the use of the words “I Inhaled” that advocates or supports drug use, then or now. It was and is simply a commentary on the era that is represented in Tom O’Neal’s photographic display. It also is, of course, a play on the political comment of former President Bill Clinton that he tried marijuana but did not inhale. Never would I have expected a comment with a basis in the news, to say nothing of a descriptive phrase designed solely to capture the tone of an era, to be banned from the National Press Club.

All these supposed rules and regulations we have been accused of not following are nothing but petty excuses to do what Werner and McCarren wanted in the first place – to censor an exhibit based on their political and personal preferences. I am ashamed to be part of a Press Club that would allow this sort of mindless censorship to take place, and I respectfully urge the Board of Governors to inject itself into this debate because it is giving the NPC a very black eye.

--Cheryl Arvidson

#1797

Former NPC Board Member