

National Press Club Board of Governors Meeting
Oct. 20, 2014

Call to order: 5:42 by Board Chairman Ken Mellgren.

Open with member report by Membership Secretary Marc Wojno, including new member approval, change of status for retired member, dues assistance request, and one offered due assistance for a recently ill member, Jeff moved to approve.

New reciprocal club in New Bedford Mass (Wojno)

Membership Secretary Wojno presents membership report, seeks approval of new members. Approved.

Minutes, board liaison reports approved.

Treasurer Tommy Burr presents his report. Oct., Nov., Dec. should be coming close to our 2014 goal. Burr will propose a draft budget at next month's meeting.

Executive Director Bill McCarren proposes eliminating student membership category for people younger than 21. Currently have 7 members younger than 21. If all members were 21+, wait staff could ask just for membership cards, and seek Driver's Licenses only from non-members. We would have potential to lose these seven members. Three would be 21 by November, the rest would be 21 by January.

President Belkind says he supports proposal. Says downside is that it would eliminate most undergraduates, would be difficult to recruit students if they can't join until their senior year.

Further discussion tabled to next meeting.

Executive Director McCarren says ISOA wants to return to NPC next year. They've had meetings in the past with everyone on the record, may have in the future wth people on the record. We agreed if there's even one speaker who wants to be off the record, it will be a closed-to-press event.

Board member Molly McCluskey: One of the things that has been a struggle to me over the years is that I can't tell from the calendar what's an open event, what's closed, what's off the record. Is there some way we could standardize the template they fill out to clarify whether it's a private event or a presser?

McCarren: I think if it's a news conference, it usually says ``news conference.''

McCluskey: I'm asking as a member, what events am I allowed to walk into and take notes? Will we be carded, can I walk in off the street? This is something that should be standardized.

Board member Alison Fitzgerald: Why would it be on the calendar if it's a private event?

Belkind: Press club events, events organized by the Club or a committee are listed on the online calendar as soon as they're organized. Private events aren't listed until the day of the event.

McCarren: There will be events, like private dinners, listed on the board at the entrance that we don't have listed.

Belkind: I think there's usually contact information for someone who can tell you more about the event.

Wojno: I echo Molly's concern in that there are events where I think we need more details about what's going on.

Snyder: I agree with Molly in that events that are listed should specify whether they're open to the press or not.

McCarren: There are lots of ways to find out information, not our job to tell everyone. When things are open to all the press, that's what we'll say.

Belkind: Why don't we table this, how about we advance the discussion next month.

Belkind will do the special welcome for the Kalb Report tonight. Will recognize Board Chairman Mellgren, National Journalism Institute Chairman Barbara Cochran and all of the board members for the club and the institute.

President Belkind gives his report, comments on the General Membership Meeting. Tried to highlight why the NPC is so special. Played clips of Jose Valle, our diversity scholarship winner, who outed himself as an undocumented immigrant. He Played 1-minute clip of CNBC anchor Nora O'Donnell talking about Charlie Rose's award. Played clip of Abdullah El-Shami Al Jazeera journalist, who was imprisoned for 10 months and wanted to thank the NPC for its statements, issued by the Press Freedoms committee. He said they do have an impact.

Dana Millbank column came out and was published on a Thursday, day before GMM. Was grateful that we had three past presidents joining the twitter discussion that day, as well as John Hughes, our VP.

I wanted to have a measured response, going through speech at the GMM the next day.

We gave a comprehensive report to the membership. Wrote an oped for the Washington Post, hasn't run.

Proposed response: all events would be open to the press unless express permission given by NPC president.

McCarren: we could put this language into the contract. Some clients would think they couldn't have an event closed to the press.

Fitzgerald, Morton: express concerns.

Belkind: Happy to appoint a committee to discuss. Discussion tabled for next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27.

In attendance:

- Chairman Ken Mellgren, Associated Press (Retired)

- Vice Chairman Jeff Ballou, Al Jazeera
- President Myron Belkind, George Washington University
- Vice President John Hughes, Bloomberg News
- Treasurer Tommy Burr, Salt Lake Tribune
- Secretary Andrea Snyder, Bloomberg News
- Membership Secretary Marc Wojno, Kiplinger
- Board member Frederica Dunn, Jamestown Post Journal
- Board member Alison Fitzgerald, Center for Public Integrity
- Board member Marilyn Geewax, National Public Radio
- Board member Molly McCluskey, Freelance
- Board member Joseph Morton, Omaha World Herald
- Board member Ed Barks, Barks Communications
- Board member Anthony Shop, Social Driver
- Board member Suzanne Struglinski, Baker & McKenzie
- National Press Club Executive Director Bill McCarren
- Ex Officio Angela Greiling Keane, Bloomberg News
- Ex Officio Barbara Cochran, University of Missouri