

National Press Club Board of Governors Meeting April 28

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m.

National Press Club gets clean bill of health from auditor David Jones. Jones has already gone over the audit with the Audit Committee, presents audit to board. Everyone cooperated fully with auditor. Books are kept in good order, no disagreements about policy, management team was very cooperative, Jones said.

Minutes are approved unanimously with the addition of John Hughes' report from the Publications Committee as follows:

``The Wire is proceeding apace. The Publications Committee, at the last committee chairs meeting, encouraged committee chairs to assign members to cover their events as well as announce and publicize them. Many events beyond luncheons and newsmakers are worthy of such coverage. We were pleased to see, for example, that the chair of the communicators committee wrote up a short article about the Mike McCurry talk for publication in the Wire. We are looking forward to a trip report - with photos - from the Travel Committee about what was apparently an extraordinary trip to Myanmar.''

Treasurer Thomas Burr mentioned the Young Members Committee would like to explore whether the board would allow young members a discount for marquis events like the Fourth Estate award dinner. Discussion tabled for future.

Board Liaison committee reports approved unanimously.

Membership Secretary Marc Wojno submits 34 new members for acceptance into the National Press Club. Board approves unanimously.

Status changes for April include five members moving to retired status and two requesting dues assistance due to health reasons and job loss. Board approves unanimously.

Wojno passes out lists of members who haven't renewed membership to board so that board members can reach out to tell them we value their membership and inquire whether there are specific issues that are preventing them from renewing.

Treasurer Thomas Burr presents report. While the National Press Club was below budget in March for the third consecutive month,

hurt by bad weather, we turned a profit. March was the best month of the year so far.

Executive Director Bill McCarren presents his report, says he's happy with March progress.

The Club has a new front desk staffer, Victoria Wilson, who will be on the afternoon and evening shift. Please say hello! There will be a couple new people coming on for other things later in the year.

Joe Morton is heading a committee to oversee a look into house rules. Doesn't foresee a major overhaul.

President Myron Belkind focuses on excellence at the Club. Speaks about the committees as a backbone, foundation of making the Press Club a place where members want to be. He says we had a very successful Meet the Press night with more than 40 people, great mix of journalists and communicators. Another will be held in a few months. We had a very successful Kalb report with justices Ginsburg and Scalia. Calls out Book and Brunch Committee, Travel Committee, Speakers Committee, among others.

Upcoming events include luncheons with Donald and Ivanka Trump and potential presidential hopeful Dr. Benjamin Carson, the Silver Owls' Hoot and a Philippines Embassy night. The General Membership Meeting will be held May 9.

Belkind moves that the board accept Press Freedom Committee's recommendations for 2014 John Aubuchon Press Freedom Awards. Awards to be presented July 30.

Date of next BOG meeting is confirmed for May 19.