

Board of Governors Meeting – July 24, 2018

Present: Derek Wallbank, Andrea Edney, Lisa Matthews, Peter Urban, Molly McCluskey, Ferdous Al-Faruque, Pat Host, Kimberly Adams, Will Lester (guest), Erik Meltzer, Andy Fisher, Jen Judson, Mike Freedman

Phone: Bill McCarren, Lindsay Murphy

Wallbank opened the meeting.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Al-Faruque moved to approve the previous meeting's minutes. Matthews seconded the motion which was approved with minor edits.

NPC Awards

Lester presented the nominees for the NPC awards winners. Wallbank put forth a motion to approve the award recipients which was subsequently approved unanimously.

Judson presented the nominees for the scholarship winners. She noted one recipient almost won two scholarships. Wallbank made a motion to approve the scholarships which were unanimously approved by the board.

Fourth Estate Dinner

Edney noted the Fourth Estate Dinner will be hosted on Nov. 9. She updated the board that Martin Baron and Dean Baquet said they are honored to receive the Fourth Estate award and will be present at the dinner.

Liaison Report

Al-Faruque presented the liaison report. There was no issues raised with it.

Membership Report

Host presented the latest new membership list for the board's approval. Edney noted multiple members were on the list thanks to McCluskey and thanked her. Host motioned to approve the list. Edney seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Freedman presented the treasurer's report. He noted it was a record month for June. Monthly profit pushed overall profit over year-to-date. This was the first time the club made this level of profit in one month. He also stated media services had a significant uptick and several events generated significant revenue. While the club continues to have zero debt, he cautioned the club is anticipating the usual seasonal downturn.

Executive Director's Report

McCarren presented the executive director's report. He pointed out the club won some new large accounts. He also spoke about active shooter defensive training and noted there will be a training session July 27. He encouraged staff and any board members to attend, and added the club can expand the course in the future.

McCarren said there is negotiations in the Emilio Gutierrez case between his attorneys and the government on the habeas corpus case. If no deal is reached Gutierrez will go before a judge in El Paso, Texas. On a hopeful note he added was the judge previously rejected the government's assertion Gutierrez had not standing in this case because it's an immigration matter.

President's Report

Edney presented the president's report. She thanked everyone for coming to Julie's memorial service at the club and noted while everyone was sad, a lot of people used the moment to remember Julie joyfully. Al-Faruque noted the eulogies were beautiful but gave special laudation to McCarren for his eulogy.

Edney said Wallbank did an excellent job moderating the Union Pacific luncheon. She also said Freedman moderated the luncheon with MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred and "knocked it out of the park." Edney added the CEO of Delta also spoke at the club and Sean Spicer was scheduled to do so as well.

Edney said she and McCarren advised the establishment of a press club in Morocco recently. The Kingdom of Morocco is overhauling its constitution and promoting press freedom including building a national press club. They want to set up a center to train journalists on media ethics in Africa as well. She said they would be looking into the issue more in the future as the kingdom seeks the club's advice. Edney noted it felt like a real societal change was happening in Morocco which could be a good and interesting development.

Edney also talked about the murders at the Capital Gazette. She's had a number of conversations with people at the newspaper. She noted Kathy Keily put out a note in the wire looking for editorial assistants to volunteer at the Capital Gazette.

McCarren said the club may be able to help the paper's business by taking out an ad.

Edney gave a shout out to Reliable Sources bartender Giovanni Alexander for getting a copy of the Capital Gazette the day after the shooting to post outside the bar. The club is working on hosting a panel that would include staff from the Capital Gazette to talk about what newsrooms can do to prepare for potential threats.

Edney talked about the domestic Aubuchon awards.

With discussion from the board it was recommended the award be given to Chuck Plunkett, former editorial page editor at the Denver Post, for writing against Alden Global Capital's management of the newspaper which led to his termination.

Edney moved to award the President's Award to the Capital Gazette and the domestic Aubochon Award to Chuck Plunket. Matthews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board also decided to give President's Award to the Capital Gazette at the Fourth Estate Dinner.

Edney took a moment to congratulate Jen Judson on behalf of the board on her pregnancy.

She also said on the evening of July 25 there will be a reception with Senate press secretaries at the club and encouraged board members to attend.

Other Matters

Wallbank said the NPC softball team made it to the playoffs and proposed having a happy hour for them on Aug. 2 with the first drink on the club.

Wallbank adjourned the meeting.