

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
APRIL 25, 2005**

Sylvia Smith, Secretary

Chairwoman Donna Leinwand called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Present were President Rick Dunham, Vice president Jonathan Salant, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Treasurer Jerry Zremski and Membership secretary John Donnelly and Governors Joe Anselmo, Alison Bethel, Alan Bjerga, Gayela Bynum, John Gallagher, Mark Hamrick and Lou Priebe. Also present were General manager John Bloom, Membership director Julie Schoo, Director of member recruitment Sarahanne Driggs, Comptroller Georgetta George, and David Jones and Tina Emerson of the auditing firm Ribis, Jones and Maresca. Governor Maureen Groppe was absent.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Leinwand said the chairs of three committees sought to make presentations to the board.

Heather Weaver, chairwoman of the Book and Author Committee, asked permission for her committee to schedule more events than had been allocated this year.

Kathy Kiely, chairwoman of the Scholarship Committee, said the committee recommended two recipients for Ellen Masin Persina Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a college-bound high school student who is a racial or ethnic minority and who has demonstrated an interest in pursuing a career in journalism.

-- Bernette Pearson, 17, from Irvington, N.J. Kiely said the committee was impressed by Bernette's eloquent essay. That, her grades, her extracurricular activities and her teacher recommendations indicated that she has managed to excel despite difficult financial circumstances. The committee believes that the scholarship money could have a major impact on Bernette's future.

--Terrell Brown, 17, from Ettrick, Va. Kiely said the committee was impressed by Terrell's extraordinary initiative: He began volunteering for a local radio station as an eighth grader and is now a regular on-the-air television personality. He also started a TV program at his own high school. Our broadcast judges said he already has a remarkable on screen presence and an ability to write in a conversational tone. Terrell will be the first broadcast winner of the Persina scholarship.

Dunham moved and the board approved the committee's recommendation. Salant suggested giving them four-year NPC memberships during their college years, but Zremski noted that there isn't a membership category for undergraduates.

Leinwand moved and the board approved a motion thanking Kiely and the members of the Scholarship Committee for their hard work and diligence.

Wilson Dizard, chairman of the High Tech Committee, was asked to update the board on the Club website. He said the factor inhibiting the ability of members to make reservations and pay their bills on line is the timing of the software company to develop the capability. He predicted the software will be released in the summer, but said that timing could slip.

Dizard also said it would be a good idea for the board to develop a policy against conflict of interest on all committee. He said the issue arises when members of the committee who work for tech companies attempt to promote their companies' products.

Dunham told Dizard that Club committees need help with getting their committee web pages on line. Dizard said he would take that under advisement. Dunham asked Dizard to prepare a memo telling other committees how to do it. Dizard said he would talk to Tom Glad. Smith asked Dizard to create a how-to memo. Dizard said he would submit it to Glad.

Dizard also briefed the board on how and why the committee had proposed making a donation to the prison newspaper project at Angola Prison (which the board previously rejected).

Smith moved the board move into executive session to discuss a legal matter. After discussion, the board resumed open session.

Smith moved and the board approved the minutes of the March 28 meeting.

The board resumed its discussion with Dizard, and Dunham asked whether there is a way to prod the software company to move more quickly on creating the capability for members to conduct business on line. Dizard said he would look into it. Dunham asked him to prepare recommendations for the board.

On the matter of conflict of interest, Dunham said Dizard should tell Hi-Tech Committee members that it is Club policy, and has been for years, and is in the code of ethics that members are not to profit from their Club membership.

Dunham told Dizard that Club resources can not be used for charitable causes. Leinwand said if a committee has a proposal, it should be submitted to the board. Dizard said it is hypocritical for the board of governors to be served a meal at the board meetings when committees are not permitted to charge the Club for meals at their meetings. Zremski said committees' budgets should be spent on things that adhere to their missions.

Salant told Dizard that it is Club policy to charge a higher price for non-members when there is a fee for events, which the Hi-Tech Committee did not do. Dizard said the concern was that a higher fee would diminish

attendance. Smith said the point of the fee is that it demonstrates value for membership.

Dunham said the Hi-Tech Committee was created to assist with the NPC web site, not designed to be a committee of tech writers. He said the committee has changed over time and the mission has changed because the board didn't restructure it.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Donnelly moved and the board approved the following 45 membership applications and request to change 3 members to active status:

ACTIVE: Myung-Ghil Choi, correspondent, MBC TV; Catherine Dodge, reporter, Bloomberg News; Geoff Elliott, correspondent, News Limited; Michael G. Forsythe, reporter, Bloomberg News; Jai Hong Kwon, MBC TV bureau chief Jaegu Shim, MBC TV correspondent; Jon Steinman, reporter Bloomberg News; Julia Wilkinson, freelance author; Yae Yong Yoo, MBC TV correspondent.

ACTIVE UNDER 34: Joseph F. Coombs Jr., reporter, Washington Business Journal; Evan Lehmann, correspondent, Lowell Sun.

ACTIVE UNDER 30: Gwen Glazer, deputy managing editor, Nationaljournal.com; Katy Marquardt, reporter, Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine; Timothy Mazzucca, reporter, Washington Business Journal; Catharine Richert, associate editor, Inside Washington Publishers; Elizabeth White, reporter, Bureau of National Affairs; Kathryn Wolfe, reporter, Congressional Quarterly.

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT: Dennis R. Cooper, publisher, Key West The Newspaper; Gina Daddario, chairwoman, Shenandoah University Department of Mass Communications; Roderick P. Hart, interim dean, College of Communications, University of Texas at Austin; Gary Kemper, director, European Pressphoto Agency; P. Neely Washington, editor and publisher, Middlesex Monthly.

ACTIVE REINSTATEMENT: Bill Hieronymus, correspondent, Brazil Portfolio; Grant M. Stockdale, associate publisher, King Publishing Group.

PROVISIONAL UNDER 30: Charlene Carter, reporter, Congressional Quarterly; Jeffrey Friedman, web producer, Congressional Quarterly.

AFFILIATE UNDER 34: Amy Auth, press secretary to Rep. Virginia Foxx; Heather Hoelzer, communications director, Rep. Sanford Bishop; Ilinca Ilie, third secretary/press attaché, Embassy of Romania; Cathy Johnson, manager of media and public relations, Control Risks Group; Heather Lasher Todd, communications director, Rep. Russ Carnahan.

AFFILIATE RE-INSTATEMENT: Arthur B. Keys Jr., president and CEO, International Relief and Development Inc.; Coleman Reed Tuckson, photographer, Consolidated News Pictures.

AFFILIATE NON-RESIDENT RE-INSTATEMENT: Richard A. Meyer, president, Ocean Energy Council Inc.

ASSOCIATE: Dean Armandroff, regional political director, American Medical Association; Nina Bang-Jensen, executive director, Coalition for International Justice; Gerry Gingrich, professor, National Defense University; Jonathan Hoyle, minister, British Embassy:

David Karmol, vice president of public policy, AMSI.

ASSOCIATE UNDER 34: Natascha French, manager, AKE LLC; Joanna Haeberle, program manager, Tuesday's Children; Paula L. Weis, director of communications, Society of the Plastics Industry.

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT: Chris Burke, founder and CEO, Tuesday's Children; Stephen W. Linton, chairman, Eugene Bell Foundation.

GRADUATE STUDENT NON-RESIDENT: Melanie Hollands, Columbia University.

REQUEST FOR CHANGE TO ACTIVE STATUS: Laura E. Chatfield, editor, United Press International; J. Lisa Jorgenson, freelance author; Peggy Sands, editor, Congressional Quarterly.

Members as of April 2005: 3,680 vs. 3,758 as of April 2004.

Donnelly moved and the board approved retired dues status for 1 member.

Donnelly noted a June 23 recruiting reception for international correspondents and embassy press attaches. He said unless there was an objection, he will waive the initiation fee for anyone who joins as a result of that event.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Zremski moved and the board unanimously approved adoption of the 2004 NPC audit completed by Ribis, Jones and Maresca.

Zremski moved and the board unanimously approved giving Bloom the authority to complete a \$1 million loan agreement with BB&T at a rate of ¼ point above prime.

Zremski moved and the board unanimously approved a contract with Lawson and Associates Architects to develop plans for the NPC Multimedia Center on the fourth floor of the National Press Building.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Bloom said the project manager for the media center has been told to have three bids for each contract and to be open to minority bidders. Bloom said the architect measured the space on the fourth floor and came up with about 2,000 square feet fewer than the lease states. He said he is trying to resolve the matter. Bloom reviewed the schematic with the

board and said the idea of using some of the space for temporary office space for journalists will have to be dropped for lack of room. Board members asked various questions about the specific uses and options for expansion.

Bloom said the first quarter has been a bit of a struggle, but April will finish strong, primarily due to the audio-visual department. He said he has concerns going forward and is watching costs carefully. He said the Club has to make its budget projections by the end of June because the first half of the year is always better than the second. He said the three reasons for the soft numbers are a lack of catering business, a decline in membership and the reduction in advertising in the membership directory. He said last year at this point, the directory had attracted \$135,000 in advertising. This year it is \$60,000.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dunham said the mentor program was kicked off; Bob Woodward is doing a members-only session on interviewing; a libel law program is scheduled.

Salant moved and the board approved technical corrections to the proposed changes in the Constitution referring to geographic location and past presidents.

Priebe moved that wherever the title "non-voting board of governor" appears, it be changed to affiliate/associate. He withdrew his motion after discussion. During discussion, Leinwand noted that the board members who represent affiliate and associate members are non-voting members of the board but the proposed changes in the Constitution and Bylaws will give them voting rights in the committee of the whole. Salant noted that there are three non-voting members of the board, including the immediate past president, who is not an affiliate/associate representative. Salant suggested an e-mail vote refining the language.

(By email) Salant moved and the board approved the following language be presented to the general membership:

Article IV, Section 3. The Board of Governors shall consist of the officers of the Club, each of whom shall be elected for a period of one year, and seven other Active members, each of whom shall be elected for a period of three years.

In addition, there shall be two members elected for a two-year term by the Affiliate members and the Associate members voting as a single class. These Board members shall not vote unless otherwise specified in the Constitution or Bylaws. The immediate past president of the Club shall be a non-voting member of the Board.

Salant moved that the Book and Author Committee be allowed to have two additional events this year if something comes up. During discussion, Leinwand said she doesn't see why the committee couldn't raise the issue with the president if something comes up. Bloom noted that when the

committee has asked, he has always arranged for space. Dunham said there are options the committee could explore, as well, including the McClendon Room and using the library for smaller programs. **The motion was rejected.**

BOARD LIAISON AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Events Committee wants to know the board standing when it has paid musicians for music nights. If the musician is a member he or she is not paid. What about when one person in a multi-member band is a member or a spouse member? Leinwand said in that case, they should be paid. Salant said a small group should look over the ethics rules with an eye to revising them. It was the consensus to refer the review to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The holiday bazaar is Nov. 2. Bynum said previous year's proceeds have gone to the Fellowship Committee, but she would like to change the recipient to the scholarship fund. There was no objection.

Salant asked for input on where to have the end-of-season picnic for the softball team and others. Dunham said to have it in the park where the last game is played.

Dunham said now is the key time for 5K sponsorships, especially because a \$5,000 sponsor from 2004 no longer exists. He especially encouraged board members to solicit their employers for donations. He also said there is a need for silent auction items.

The next meeting was set for May 23.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.