

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

Dec. 19, 2005

Sylvia Smith, Secretary

Chairwoman Donna Leinwand called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Present were President Rick Dunham, Vice president Jonathan Salant, Secretary Sylvia Smith and Treasurer Jerry Zremski and Governors Joe Anselmo, John Gallagher, Mark Hamrick, Maureen Groppe, Alan Bjerga and Lou Priebe. Also present were Governor-elect Keith Hill, General manager John Bloom and Sarahanne Driggs, director of membership recruitment. Membership secretary John Donnelly and Governor Alison Bethel were absent.

Smith moved and the board approved adoption of the Nov. 21 minutes.

Smith reported the following results of the Club election: A total of 126 votes were cast, of which 17 were absentee. Officers elected were Jonathan Salant, president, 108 votes; Jerry Zremski, vice president, 109 votes; Sylvia Smith, secretary, 108 votes; Donna Leinwand, treasurer, 106 votes; John Donnelly, membership secretary, 109 votes. No officer candidate was opposed. Governors elected were John Gallagher, 102 votes, and Keith Hill, 84 votes. Candidate John Fales received 47 votes. A total of 21 votes were cast by affiliate/associate members, of which 5 were absentee. Elected was Gayela Bynum, governor, 16 votes.

Smith said Fales requested a list of the active members who had voted, their addresses and whether they voted absentee. Leinwand and others said voting is done by secret ballot, and to provide such information would raise privacy concerns. She said if Fales wanted to thank people, he could post a note. Smith said he also asked for the entire membership list in alternative format. Bloom said he had provided Fales with the web link.

Board members discussed the absentee balloting procedures that were available, for the first time, to non-resident members. Some concern was expressed that there wasn't enough time for non-resident members to receive the packet, request an absentee ballot and return that ballot. Salant said perhaps the packet could include an absentee ballot application.

Zremski moved and the board approved the following 36 members:

ACTIVE: Neal Freed, photographer, Freed Photography; Herb Jackson, correspondent, The Bergen Record; John Mitchell, reporter, Reader's Digest; Talha Gibriel Musa Asharq, correspondent, Al-Awsat Newspaper; Lesley Wroughton, correspondent, Reuters.

ACTIVE UNDER 35: James Nicholas Schulz, editor, TechCentralStation.com; Sacha Zimmerman, senior editor, Reader's Digest.

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT: Kathleen Antrim, journalist, The Examiner Newspapers, San Francisco; Adel Ellithy, chief, Asharq Al-Awsat Newspaper, London, England;

Jacqueline Leo, editor-in-chief, Reader's Digest, Pleasantville, N.Y.; Dieter Sellinger, correspondent, GNS Network, Ingolstadt, Germany Correspondent; Rachel Snyder, freelance writer, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

ACTIVE REINSTATEMENT: Kenneth Fireman, government team leader, Bloomberg News; Jim Greenhill, staff writer, The Durango Herald; Yoichi Kato, bureau chief, The Asahi Shimbun; Alan Kovski, managing editor, McGraw-Hill; Jose Lopez Zamorano, editor, Notimex, Mexican News Agency.

ACTIVE UNDER 35 REINSTATEMENT: Allison Stevens, bureau chief, Women's eNews.

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT REINSTATEMENT: David Giammarco, reporter, CTV Television Network, Toronto, Ontario; Gary C. King, freelance author, Las Vegas.

PROVISIONAL UNDER 30: Justin Bank, research coordinator, Annenburg Political Factcheck.org; James Ficaro, research coordinator, Annenburg Political Factcheck.org; Emi Kolawole, staff writer, Annenburg Political Factcheck.org.

AFFILIATE: John Bisney, media relations representative, American Petroleum Institute; J. Craig Shearman, vice president of public relations, National Retail Federation.

AFFILIATE UNDER 35: Taoufik Chebbi, press counselor, Embassy of Tunisia.

STUDENT: Mary Specht, American University School of Communications/Undergrad; Benedikt Walter, American University School of Communications/Graduate.

STUDENT NON-RESIDENT: Lynne Walsh, SUNY New Paltz, West Sayville, N.Y./ Undergraduate.

ASSOCIATE: Maureen Lamour Agron, journalist, National Physicians Association; Jerome Barry, director, The Embassy Series.

ASSOCIATE UNDER 35: Allison Nadelhaft, senior communications associate, NASW; Yesenia Sarabia-Peiker, public relations manager, American Academy of Family Physicians.

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT: Nancy Lewis, corporate communications manager, SAE International, Pittsburgh; Daniel Medinger, associate producer and editor, The Catholic Review, Baltimore.

ASSOCIATE REINSTATEMENT: David M. Fish, executive director, Verizon.

Zremski moved and the board approved retired dues status for 4 members.

Salant moved (with a friendly amendment by Dunham) and the board approved a commendation for the efforts of Donnelly and Zremski, and Julie Schoo and

Sarahanne Driggs in membership recruitment for the past two years, resulting in an increase for the first time in several years.

Zremski said there is a trend of some members who say they do not want to pay the Second Century Fund payment. Schoo said several said they would resign if forced to pay the \$20 fee. Zremski said perhaps the amount should just be rolled into the dues total.

Zremski moved and the board approved a reiteration of the long-standing policy that all designated members must pay the annual Second Century Fund payment.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Zremski said the only change made to the proposed 2006 budget is that the membership directory will only be a list of members, not an advertising/source document. During discussion of the budget, it was noted that some figures are not final because the union negotiations are not complete. Bloom said the pass-through costs could also go up. **Zremski moved and the board agreed that the board move into the committee of the whole. Zremski moved that the committee of the whole approve the 2006 Club budget. It passed unanimously. Leinwand adjourned the committee of the whole and reconvened the NPC board. Zremski moved and the board approved the 2006 budget as recommended by the committee of the whole.**

Zremski said the auditors have begun work on the 2005 audit and that the Budget Committee will meet with them early in 2006. **Zremski moved and the board approved moving \$5,000 from the fellowship fund to the Fellowship Committee.**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Bloom said the ribbon cutting on the broadcast center would be Jan 13. Zremski said tours would be available for Club members after the general membership meeting that day.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dunham urged board members to attend the employee holiday lunch, the Vivian Awards and the final reception of the mentor program. He said he has had two conversations in recent days with the White House press secretary about giving President Bush his membership card. He said Bush is the first president who has not accepted his membership card since William Howard Taft became the first president to also be a NPC member.

Dunham said the member book page is up on the web site. Each sale brings the Library a little money. He said the Library is moving ahead with plans for a spring fund-raiser. He said Salant and Bill McCarren are working with American Public Media to include the NPC in a series on great speeches. He briefed the board on potential upcoming events.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

Leinwand welcomed Hill to the board. She said the board appreciation dinner will be Jan. 9.

The board moved into executive session to discuss legal matters and then resumed open session.

OLD BUSINESS

Priebe said more than 50 active members attended the special general membership meeting and that Dunham handled the session very well. He said the discussion was civil. He said a majority of those present voted in support of giving the affiliate/associate board members full voting rights on the board, but that a quorum was not present.

NEW BUSINESS

Salant said the president of the Yale Club proposed co-sponsoring some events. He said under the partnership guidelines, the Club can co-sponsor with education institutions. Bjerga said he had concerns.

Zremski said it has not been clearly delineated what the journalism training programs should be, nor has the Library's mission in this regard been clarified. He proposed an informal group of himself, Dunham, Salant, Tom Glad, Schoo and Theresa Werner, chairwoman of the Journalism Training Committee, to discuss the concepts as a prelude to deciding whether a director of journalism training is needed.

Salant said former Governor Stan Hamilton had pushed for a commemorative stamp for the Club's 100th anniversary, and a year ago a letter was to have been sent to the commission. He said that was not done. He asked if there was board interest in continuing to pursue it; the consensus was yes.

Dunham inquired about the money collected from members for the staff holiday bonuses. Bloom said \$5,790. He said last year \$13,000 was donated. **Dunham moved and the board approved authorizing \$20,000 for staff holiday bonuses with the Club making up the difference between what members contributed and the \$20,000.**

Salant moved and the board approved the following resolution: Whereas Rick Dunham has completed a successful year as president of the National Press Club, whereas Rick's tenure has been marked by an increase in membership, whereas this year has seen an increase in professional development programs and such programs as "Who is a Journalist?" that brought the Club national attention, Be It Resolved That the Board of Governors: 1. Commends Rick for a terrific year as president. 2. Takes note of the terrific professional development programs we had this year. 3. Urges Rick to remain active in Club affairs.

Committee liaisons gave brief reports of events, including the last Pub Quiz of the year and an exhibit tied to Black History Month.

Salant said his inaugural would be Jan. 14. He said his employer, Bloomberg News, donated \$20,000 and that with ticket sales and the amount the Club budgeted, that would amount to \$50,000 to spend on the evening. He said he brought in an outside consultant

to draft a plan and that his wife is doing a video. He said folk singer Tom Paxton was the main entertainment. Smith asked if Salant's wife was being paid. Salant said no. Smith objected to hiring a party planner. Salant said the money was coming from Bloomberg. Zremski said the deal was struck before he and Dunham were consulted. Smith said spending \$50,000 for a party for one person was troubling.

Anselmo moved and the board approved a thank you to Leinwand for her year as chairwoman.

The next meeting is Jan. 13, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.