

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

Feb. 13, 2006

Sylvia Smith, Secretary

Chairman Mark Hamrick called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Present were Vice president Jerry Zremski, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Treasurer Donna Leinwand and Membership secretary John Donnelly and Governors Joe Anselmo, Alison Bethel, John Gallagher, Maureen Groppe, Keith Hill, Gayela Bynum and Lou Priebe and former President Rick Dunham. Also, General manager John Bloom and Membership director Julie Schoo. Absent were President Jonathan Salant and Governor Alan Bjerga.

Smith moved and the board approved the minutes of the Dec. 19 meeting. Smith moved and the board approved the minutes of the Jan. 13 meeting.

Donnelly moved and the board approved the following 33 new members:

ACTIVE: Tom Baldwin, bureau chief, The Times of London; Gordon Haight, publisher, 101 Communications Group; Paul Handley, editor, Agence France Presse; Aya Igarashi, correspondent, The Yomiuri Shimbun; Noelle Knox, reporter, USA Today; Yoshiyuki Komurata, correspondent, The Asahi Shimbun; Maura Kelly Lannan, freelancer; Deborah Shapley, senior communications adviser, Federation of American Scientists; Toshiya Umehara, correspondent, The Asahi Shimbun.

ACTIVE UNDER 35: Matt Mosley, photographer, Fuji Television.

ACTIVE UNDER 30: Sara Brunetti, associate producer, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; Morgan Felchner, managing editor, Campaigns & Elections Magazine; Steven Sloan, reporter, Dow Jones.

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT: Brant Houston, executive director, Investigative Reporters and Editors
Columbia, Mo.; Milton Thomas, author, Vero Beach, Fla.

ACTIVE REINSTATEMENT: Andrew O'Day, correspondent, Dow Jones Market Watch.

PROVISIONAL UNDER 30: Julie Clow, producer, CBC Television; Anna Stroman, researcher, correspondent, office manager, The Times of London.

AFFILIATE: Adrienne M. Combs, deputy public affairs officer, Joint Force Headquarters/U.S. Army;
Jaime Perales, communication specialist, Organization of American States.

AFFILIATE NON-RESIDENT: Jennifer I. Curtin, director of public affairs, Associate of Government Accountants,

Eden, Md.; Mike Nicholson, media relations officer, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (US Army), Norfolk, Va.

STUDENT: John P. Gramlich, American University, graduate student; Theresa C. Sanchez, Gorge Washington University, graduate student.

ASSOCIATE: Mark French, president, Leading Authorities Inc.; Edward Giltenan, head of media relations, Investment Company Institute; Brian Ruberry, CEO, Allhealth Public Relations; Elizabeth M. Stuckle, director of corporate communications, USEC Inc.

ASSOCIATE UNDER 35: Lori Burkhammer, director of public information, Water Environment Federation; Elaina Loveland, managing editor, NAFSA.

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT: Ashok Bhambhani, president, Bhola Corp., Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Lorie Karnath, author, Berlin, Germany; Richard Pellegrino, physician and author, Hot Springs, Ark.

Donnelly moved and the board approved retired dues status for four members.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Bloom reported that the broadcast center has booked \$125,000 worth of business so far. He said C-SPAN would broadcast its morning show from the center later in the week. He said the building owners have been marketing the building to media organizations and citing the broadcast facility and are trying to consolidate small media organizations on the 11th and 12th floors.

He said there was a union banner in front of the building saying "shame on the NPC for desecrating the American way of life," directed at the business that was used for renovation of the fourth floor. The work has been done for 2 months, and the NPC does not have a relationship with that union. He said he has had no inquiries about the protest from NPC members.

There are 26 NPC members who have joined the Washington Sports Club through the NPC. The WSC will give out Saturday passes to NPC members if the Club is closed on Saturdays.

Bloom said he met with University of Missouri officials about their 2008 anniversary. The Club will do some kind of professional program with the university, and they will give the Club recognition.

Bloom said he expects on-line payment to be in place by April 1.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Leinwand said the Club did not end 2005 in the black, and the big reason was a \$147,000 shortfall in catering. She said it is unfortunate that it was announced to the membership

that the year ended in the black. Bloom said the Club missed revenue numbers by \$260,000 and couldn't cut expenses that much. He noted that when the budget was prepared, no one had any idea the broadcast project would come into being. He said expenses started accruing in May, and rent payments went into effect in October; none of those expenses were budgeted. He said the D.C. ballpark fees also were not anticipated or budgeted. He said the focus should be on the cash flow, which was positive. He said catering increased from last year but that it was budgeted to increase 20 percent, which it did not. Going forward, he said, the expectation is that the broadcast center will continue to grow and expenses will be watched carefully. Leinwand said she will explain the situation to the membership.

Smith updated the board on cafepress.com, which has produced \$171 in commissions for the Club in one year. The set-up cost was \$60.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of Salant, Hamrick informed the board that the co-sponsored IRE conference on Jan. 28 was attended by many members, and several prospective members were recruited. The President's Club opening reception is March 1. More than 300 people attended Salant's inauguration. Final budget numbers are not in, but the budget was cut 10% because of lower-than-expected attendance. The Club signed contract with American Public Media, which expect to air 30 to 40 Club speakers as part of a package every week, plus some other speeches live. APM will have exclusivity for public radio, but we can offer our speeches to XM and Web and podcast them, plus C-SPAN radio can broadcast our speeches as well. He thanked Bill McCarren for his work. Bloom said the contract is half a step above a handshake and can be easily broken by either site. In response to a question, Bloom said the board needs to approve contracts only when money is involved.

NEW BUSINESS

Leinwand moved and the board approved authorizing The Record to change its publication date to Mondays, with a close date at noon on Fridays to take affect upon negotiation of a new printing contract.

Leinwand moved and the board approved instructing the NPC webmaster to post a PDF file/facsimile of The Record within three hours of publication close and to send an email notice of such. Bethel voted no.

Leinwand moved and the board approved the ratification of a 3-year contract with the employees' union. The key provision is that the payroll will remain every other week. In response to a question, Bloom said the contract is within the budget. Zremski said the board can be please that it is doing well for employees but also protecting the Club.

Leinwand moved and the board approved the free use of Club facilities and provision of food and beverage at cost for a fundraiser benefiting the Eric Friedheim Library.

Bethel inquired about the new DC law banning smoking in most establishments. She proposed that, before the law goes into effect, the Club leadership explain the status and

discuss the prospect of filing a petition to be exempt. Smith suggests that Salant raise the issue at the ay general membership meeting.

The board moved into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and then resumed open session.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Futures Task Force – will take a look at long-term goals and sort out the responsibility of training.

Speakers -- Upcoming speakers are Marc Morial, Richard Dreyfuss and Gov. George Pataki.

New Media -- Organizational meeting scheduled. The committee will ask Club members whether they're willing to put together source pages. In addition, possibly by the end of the month, a Story of the Week will be featured on the home page. The committee plans to ask the membership department to include a note in the next billings to have members go onto the Web site and indicate two or three areas of coverage or interest. The committee wants to be able to send out email alerts when we have a speaker or newsmaker in that area, which will allow members to quickly request seats at the head table for speakers.

Fourth Estate – This committee of bureau chiefs will have a recommendation at the April meeting.

Events – Has scheduled a movie night and asks the board for help in promoting it; is doing a Mardi Gras event; has scheduled a Scotch tasting.

Newsmakers – Has an active schedule, including panels on Romania, the shah's son, the future of the National Guard.

Scholarships – Is meeting 3 Saturdays in March to judge applications.

House – Voted to update the bounced check fee. Groppe said the rules do not specifically say the charge to the Club will be passed on and asked if the rules should be changed. Smith said she thinks the rules should be changed to say members will be charged a bounced-check fee that reflects the cost to the Club.

Membership – The initiation fee will be waived in April. A reception will target broadcast; the October initiation fee waiver and reception will target newsletter journalists. May 18 is a reception for international correspondents, and the initiation fee will be waived in conjunction with that. At the Rumsfeld luncheon, a heckler was escorted out. She had applied for membership that day and received a temporary membership card. Board members tossed around ways to avoid a repeat of this. Donnelly said he will convey the ideas to Schoo. He said the Rolodex campaign is getting started

and asked board members to each suggest 5 people who should become NPC members. He said the new member reception is March 6.

Smith asked if the Freedom of the Press Committee could propose a resolution or statement in support of Jill Carroll of the Christian Science Monitor. A statement appears on the web site.

Mentor Program – is seeking applications.

Book and Author – the Feb. 15 dinner is sold out. Anna Marie Cox is scheduled for Feb. 22.

5K – The race is Sept. 9 if DC government approves.

Library board – has scheduled a fund-raiser on May 22 that will be akin to the Book Fair in that chefs and cookbook writers will be featured. Dunham briefed the board on a proposed contract to run the event. Leinwand noted that the contract was not bid and asked the Library board to consider that.

International Correspondents – has scheduled several events and is planning a member-to-member program that will match US journalists and foreign journalists akin to a mentor/mentee program.

The next meeting is March 20, 2006. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.