

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

Feb. 26, 2007

Sylvia Smith, Secretary

Chairwoman Maureen Groppe called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Present were President Jerry Zremski, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Treasurer Donna Leinwand, Membership secretary Mark Hamrick and Governors Joe Anselmo, Alan Bjerga, John Gallagher, Keith Hill, Gayela Bynum, Lou Priebe, Theresa Werner and Dipka Bhambhani and former president Jonathan Salant. Also, General Manager John Bloom and Membership director Julie Schoo and former presidents Tammy Lytle and Doug Harbrecht, members of the search committee. Vice president John Donnelly was absent.

Smith moved and the board approved the minutes of the Jan. 22 meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Hamrick moved and the board approved the membership applications of the following 36 people:

ACTIVE: Len Bracken, copy editor, BNA; Antonio Cano, bureau chief, El Pais; Edwin Chen, reporter, Bloomberg News; Janice King Chutick, author; John M. Diamond, author; Earle Eldridge, associate editor, Traffic World; Marilyn Thompson, editor, Los Angeles Times.

ACTIVE UNDER 35: Diego Gilardoni, correspondent, Swiss Public Television; Lawrence Hurley, correspondent, Los Angeles Daily Journal.

ACTIVE UNDER 30: Rebecca Field, news anchor, Potomac Television.

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT: John B. Caylor, Panama City, Fla., CEO/publisher, Emerald Coast Times Publishing, Aaron Dalton, Brooklyn, N.Y., freelance; Jean Folkerts, Chapel Hill, N.C., dean of the school of journalism/communications, University of North Carolina; Robert Kochersberger Jr., Raleigh, N.C., associate professor, North Carolina State University; Todd S. Purdum, New York, N.Y., national editor, Vanity Fair; Lisa Romero, Champaign, Ill., communications librarian/professor, University of Illinois.

ACTIVE STATUS REQUEST: Paul Delaney, consultant, National Public Radio.

PROVISIONAL UNDER 30: Eli Clifton, correspondent, Inter Press Service; Tracy Schmidt, reporter, Time Magazine.

AFFILIATE: Laurie Ahern, associate director, Mental Disability Rights International; Ali Suleiman Aujali, ambassador charge d'Affairs, Embassy of Libya; Laura Barnitz, director of policy communications, Global Health Council; Karim A. Haggag, counselor, Egyptian Press & Information Office.

AFFILIATE UNDER 35: Mattias Sundholm, deputy spokesman, European Union.

AFFILIATE NON-RESIDENT: John Gareeb, Atlanta, Ga., USDA public educator and media analyst; Jack Marsh, Sioux Falls, S.D., vice president for diversity programs, Freedom Forum; Wil Simon, Santa Maria, Calif., media and public relations manager, California Space Authority.

AFFILIATE NON-RESIDENT REINSTATEMENT: Kenneth Wooden, Shelburne, Va., consultant.

STUDENT: Hallie C. Falquet, graduate student/reporter, University of Maryland/Capital News Service.

ASSOCIATE: Sascha Burns, political consultant; Leonie L. Campbell, communications manager, Asian American Justice Center; David A. Castelveter, vice president of communications, Air Transport Association of America; B. Jay Cooper, deputy managing director, Apco Worldwide; Thomas J. Reckford, vice chairman, World Affairs Council of Washington, D.C.

ASSOCIATE UNDER 35: Michael Shank, policy director, 3D Security Initiative.

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT: Roland Adams, Hanover, N.H., director of media relations, Dartmouth College.

ASSOCIATE REINSTATEMENT: Diane Smirolfo, vice president of public affairs, Business Software Alliance.

Hamrick moved and the board approved approval of retired dues status for 2 members and a six-month dues waiver for 1 member.

Hamrick reported that 436 members did not pay their 2007 dues and are on the suspension list. He said each had been informed of the pending suspension several times. He asked board members to review the list and make personal overtures to the soon-to-be former members. He also reported that the President's Club reception is Feb. 28 and a reception/committee recruitment for new members is March 14. He said the Membership Committee is in need of a few additional members.

BOARD COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

House – Reviewed the House Rules and recommended only one change, a typo. The review of the Club ethics rules will be in March. The tour of the entire facility will be on a Saturday in April.

Scholarship – The first review of entries will be March 10 at 9:30 a.m.

International Correspondents – Riz Khan of Al-Jazeera English will speak March 8; members have been invited to attend opening reception for Northern Ireland photo exhibit; planning a panel discussion on constitutional powers of the executive and legislative branches with regard to the war in Iraq.

Silver Owls – The spring Hoot is May 16 and will feature former NPC presidents recalling highlights of their tenures.

Events – Freedom Call documentary will be presented Feb. 27; an Irish band is scheduled for St. Patrick's Day; Departed will be shown on movie night; members' art will be judged and displayed in September;.

Communications and Marketing – Scheduled a half-day training April 3 on how to prepare clients for broadcast appearances.

Book and Author – March 14 rap; March wine dinner is sold out.

Membership – Recruitment reception for international journalists and embassy staff is mid-June. **Gallagher moved and the board approved a motion to allow initiation fee waiver for anyone who joins as a result.**

Photography – Feb 28 speaker will discuss the permanence of inkjet printing.

Professional Development -- Advanced blogging class Feb. 28; intro to blogging class March 12; writing techniques by the Poynter Institute March 26

Broadcast – Is concerned about the potential merger of Sirius and XM radios, though no one knows what it might mean for the NPC; is working on a cost estimate for a podcast of the NPC show; is seeking additional committee members; the Radio and TV Museum will have an exhibit in the glass case; is moving forward on making the NPC program available for free download through iTunes and is reviewing the cost of producing it (possibly through underwriting).

Young Members -- Breakfast with Champions was Jan. 31; happy hour Feb. 7 with SPJ; happy hour with Politico March 7; is planning a creative writing workshop, a travel writing panel and is looking at an editorial writing workshop; there are 18 sets of mentor/mentees for '07.

New Media -- Journalism Gems has been updated (but people are not volunteering their stories);

Newsmaker – Commission on the National Guard and Reserve is scheduled.

Speakers – President of Liberia and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger are scheduled.

Centennial – Is coming up with a timetable.

Strategic Planning – Has redrawn the timetable because it's fallen behind; questions for the survey likely to be chosen in May.

Travel – Leinwand moved and the board approved that the committee be authorized to arrange for a battlefield tour conducted by the Civil War Preservation Trust, accompanied by lunch, and that the organization be offered use of a room for a press conference in exchange.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Bloom said 2006 was one of the worst financial years for the Club since he has been an employee. He said 2007 started off well but stressed that one month's numbers can't be extrapolated for the whole year. He said catering bookings are down compared to 2006. To address the situation, he said, wages have been frozen until things turn around, the health insurance policy was changed, and there is general belt-tightening on expenditures.

Bloom said the insurance company, Chubb, paid for the repairs caused by water damage to the broadcast center and the claim was left open in case any of the repaired equipment falters. He said the Club was credited \$120,000 by the building for overpaid real estate taxes in 2004 and 2005. He said the health insurance changes are that the Club will be self-insured for the first \$1,000 of an individual's expenses. He said the change is likely to save \$40,000 to \$50,000. He said an audit of the pension fund showed a 100 percent compliance with all federal regulations.

The city's new no-smoking policy has had negligible effect on the bottom line; Saturday business has improved.

Smith said non-members frequently go to the 13th floor press release rack to pick up free Hill and Roll Calls. She said member benefit would be enhanced if the papers were kept for members only and suggested that they be put in the breakfast area until the Library opened and then kept at the Library front desk.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Leinwand said the Club is withholding \$2,300 in payment to Club Essentials until problems with on-line House accounts are resolved. She said the on-line operation will not be rolled out until kinks are worked out.

Leinwand moved and the board approved paying the increased insurance premium to cover fine art.

She asked committee liaisons to show committee budgets to the chairs and forward any discrepancies to her.

The board moved into executive session and then resumed open session.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Zremski said he received a call from the president of the Washington Press Club Foundation, who had been ill, to discuss his complaints about the description of the NPC at the WPCF's annual dinner (in which the Club's history as a place that excluded women was repeated). President Judy Holland said she had been under pressure from her board and several members to stress that theme. Zremski said he told her that the Club should have gotten credit for its recent history. Zremski was invited to the upcoming foundation board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Groppe reported that in an email vote, the board unanimously approved the following motion: **Zremski moved and the board approved the following appointments to the library board: From the NPC Board -- Jerry Zremski, John Donnelly, Sylvia Smith, Donna Leinwand; from the NPC membership -- Rick Dunham, Benfred Clement Smith, Tony Culley-Foster, Bill Hickman (representing the Silver Owls); from the National Press Foundation -- Ann McFeatters; from the Washington Press Club Foundation -- Abigail Trafford; Ex officio Joe Motherall (liaison to Book Committee) and Gus Gallagher (liaison to Book Fair)**

NEW BUSINESS

Zremski said he, Smith and Groppe had reviewed the policies adopted by the board since 1990 and reworked them to be in keeping with current practices and to eliminate redundancy and duplication. **He moved and the board approved the changes.** (See attachment.)

Smith said she raised a concern about the absence of an obit for former NPC president Pat Heffernan in the Record. She said she communicated to the Record staff about it and was told that the Heffernan information did not arrive by deadline, so his death was reported under -30- but would appear as a full obit in the next edition. Smith said she doesn't think it is necessary to adopt a formal policy but, if the board agrees, would ask the Record liaison to communicate these instructions from the board: The death of any NPC or Washington Press Club former president must appear on the front page. The news judgment of the placement of obits of other Club members should be based on the person's contribution to the Club, not his or her general prominence. The use of -30- should be immediately discontinued, and any notice of a member's death should include the person's basic information. Zremski said he thinks the use of -30- is dismissive and that the chairwoman of the Publications Committee is concerned about the Club's image if the Record starts to run many obits. Leinwand said she doesn't like the board micromanaging the Record but agrees that the use of -30- should be eliminated. She said there should be a page on the web page dedicated to deceased members.

Zremski moved and the board approved the appointment of the Fourth Estate Award Committee: Zremski (chair), 1 year; David Hess (vice chair) and Sylvia Smith, 3 years; Vicki Walton James, Chicago Tribune, and Steve Geimann, Bloomberg News, 2 years; and Tammy Lytle, Orlando Sentinel, and Andy Alexander, Cox Newspapers, 1 year.

Zremski said there was mixed board reaction to his email suggesting the NPC sign on to a letter opposing an amendment to a bill pending in the Senate. He said it's important for the Club to be in the forefront of First Amendment issues, but the Club's activism can be awkward for some members who cover the issues. He pointed out that the Club would be signing on as an institution. Salant said several of the other signers are organizations that journalists cover. He said if the signers are journalism organizations, the president should be able to add the Club's name on his or her own call but that if there are non-journalism organizations, the decision should be made by the board. Zremski said he takes all such things to the board. Leinwand said she joined the Club so the Club could speak for her when she can't and it's important that the NPC take a stand on legislation that would affect journalists. She said she would have to abstain from a vote but doesn't want that to be construed as non-support.

Zremski moved and the board approved adding the Club's name to a letter in opposition to an amendment that would make it a criminal act to communicate or publish any classified information "concerning efforts by the United States to identify, investigate, or prevent terrorist activity" and expand the penalty to 20 years in prison. (Letter attached.) Leinwand and Hamrick abstained. Salant said he would vote yes if he were a voting member.

The next meeting is March 19

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

NPC Board Policies, revised as of February 2007 and replacing policies from 1990 on

Use of 14th Floor

Rental of space on the 14th floor is prohibited. The McClendon Room is available for reservation by an NPC member on a first-come basis. A NPC member must be present when the room is used by a group.

Employee Use of Club Restaurants

The Club shall provide space for employee dining.

Head Table Luncheon Guests

With the exception of the speaker and the speaker's three guests, non-members may not sit at luncheon head tables.

Accounting Practices

The Club shall follow generally accepted accounting principles.

Freedom of the Press Day

The Club shall sponsor an annual Freedom of the Press Day, consisting of professional programs promoting understanding of the First Amendment.

Lifetime Honorary Memberships

The Club shall grant lifetime honorary memberships to Fourth Estate Award winners.

Competitive bidding

The National Press Club believes in fair, open and honest competitive bidding practices. It is the policy of the Club:

- That any expenditure of a capital nature in excess of \$10,000 will be considered under competitive bidding procedures.
- That NPC management will solicit for bids on any major capital improvement project in excess of \$10,000, in an appropriate medium, using a strategy that provides the broadest opportunity for qualified vendors to bid on the contract.
- That NPC management will recommend the lowest, best bid to the Capitol Projects Committee and the Budget Committee for consideration and approval.
- That the Budget Committee will take its decision for final approval by the full Board.

Club Expenses Greater than \$10,000

The board shall review the Club's vendors each year. Aside from food and beverage vendors, any expense of greater than \$10,000 requires board approval.

Newsmaker events

The Newsmaker Committee shall give top priority to legitimate news events sponsored by organizations that promote open government and a free press.

Parking sticker policy

1. Parking stickers will be provided at paid Club evening events (Fourth Estate Dinner, Hoots, etc.) when the ticket price is \$20 or more.
2. Parking stickers will continue to be provided to Fourth Estate dinner patrons.
3. Parking stickers will be provided to members dining/drinking in The Reliable Source when they have a tab in the evening of at least \$20 and on Saturday of at least \$10. This applies to both food and beverage.
4. Members may buy a parking sticker at the Club's cost, currently \$5.
5. No parking stickers will be given away free except as listed above.
6. Board members will continue to receive parking stickers for board meetings and paid Club events.

Fees for non-members

Non-members shall be charged a fee to attend non-newsmaking professional development events. All Club events involving fees or admission charges should cost members at least 25% less than non-members on events costing \$100 or less and 50% less on events costing more than \$100

Exhibit Guidelines

It is the sense of the Board that the subject of exhibits in the glass case should be the Club, free press and/or journalism issues; that the duration of each exhibit should be about a month; a list of exhibits should be drawn up, brought to the House Committee and then, through the liaison, brought to the Board. At no point is the space available for leasing or selling to any group, and it is not for sponsors of Club events. Some ideas of the sorts of things Board members think is appropriate include a display on the winners of the Club's scholarships; a display of the Club and the presidents (US) over the years; a display of the Club's involvement in free press issues. Other Club committees, the Newseum and various museums can and should be contacted for assistance.

Behavior at the Bar

It is the policy of the Board that the behavior at the bar is required to be in compliance with the Club's liquor license.

Guidelines for Partnering with Other Organizations

The club co-sponsors professional affairs events, professional training events, newsmakers and issue-oriented forums with other journalism membership and training organizations and educational institutions. Past and current collaborators include Investigative Reporters and Editors, the Regional Reporters Association and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

When co-sponsoring these kinds of events with another organization, the National Press Club takes responsibility for the events' contents and offers input into the events; planning, and lends its prestige, name and logo to the event.

The National Press Club does not co-sponsor professional development events with non-journalistic advocacy or non-journalistic commercial organizations.

A NPC committee must approve and oversee a co-sponsored event, and the Club's Board has veto power over co-sponsored events. The NPC will provide free space for co-sponsored events so long as the collaborating organization agrees with these guidelines:

- Scheduling of the event must be worked out in collaboration with the appropriate committee and its staff liaison; NPC will publicize co-sponsored events through its newsletter and web site. The co-sponsoring organization must make it clear in its publicity that the event is co-sponsored by the National Press Club. If audio-visual equipment is to be used, the co-sponsoring organization must use the Press Club audio-visual department, rather than an outside contractor. Fees will be agreed to in advance in talks between the co-sponsoring organization and the Press Club. Either the Press Club or the co-sponsoring organization can take reservations for the event. This must be worked out, however, while the event is being planned. Press Club members must be given ample opportunity to register. A Club member must be on the agenda to speak at each co-sponsored event, either as a panelist, as moderator, or as the host who delivers a brief introduction. Speakers for the events can be reimbursed for their travel and expenses, but under Club bylaws, no speaker can be paid an honorarium. The chair of the appropriate Club committee (or in his or her absence, the vice chair) must approve the list of speakers and the agenda for each event before the event is publicized. All issue-oriented events must meet Press Club standards for objectivity, balance and fairness. Issue-oriented events that are co-sponsored with another organization must be approved by the Club president as well as the appropriate Press Club committee. Any member of the Board of Governors can ask for a board vote to overturn or ratify the president's decision regarding a co-sponsored event. Events must be open to all Press Club members and all journalism professionals as space permits. Press Club membership applications should be available at all co-sponsored events. Food or drink brought in from outside the Club is not permitted at cosponsored events.

While these guidelines are meant to encourage partnerships on small-scale events, the Club does not routinely cosponsor conferences with other journalism groups. Any proposal for a cosponsored conference must be approved by the appropriate committee and the Board of Governors. Proposals for cosponsored conferences will be evaluated primarily on the basis of the amount of benefit each conference brings to National Press Club members. On the rare occasion of a cosponsored conference, all the above partnering guidelines apply, and NPC members should receive a substantial discount on the enrollment fee.

NPC Tribute Naming Process

The National Press Club wishes to appropriately bestow honor on deceased members who have made significant contributions to the National Press Club and the field of journalism. The following guidelines will be used to consider certain methods of recognition, specifically the naming of NPC items and facilities:

1. The formal naming process will not begin until one year after someone's death. Persons interested in proposing a tribute must develop a written proposal including information on the person's life and contributions to the press club and journalism, with supporting documents included, and a suggested item to be named. Club elements that can be named for individuals would include, but not be limited to, rooms and other physical spaces, menu items, plaques on walls, seats at the bar (and on the bar itself), tables in the restaurants and awards.

2. The "1st Amendment Lounge" name is not eligible for change.

3. At any time after the one year waiting period has passed, persons interested in naming an element of the National Press Club after a member may present their proposal to the House Committee. Proposals will be evaluated with special attention to the individual's contributions to the National Press Club, as well as their

contributions to journalism. The House Committee will consider each proposal. Those approved by the committee would be forwarded to the Board of Governors for acceptance, revision or rejection.

4. No individual should have more than one memorial named for him/her.

Policy on Donating Proceeds to Outside Groups

The National Press Club and its committees shall neither donate nor share proceeds from a National Press Club sponsored event with any outside group (defined as a group not financially supported by or housed in The National Press Club) without approval from the Club president and treasurer.

Groups that may be considered for such arrangements are those with no direct political agenda and whose mission or values do not conflict with those of the Club and its members. Groups that might be considered would include college or high school journalism groups, professional journalism groups that will use the funds for educational, professional development or freedom of the press issues and some limited, non-profit charities.

Committee Conduct

Any single committee event costing more than \$500 in total must be approved in advance by the Club treasurer.

Committee budgets are to be used for Club events only. Committees may not use their budgets for their own entertainment purposes, or to pay for meals and beverages at committee meetings. Committees also are prohibited from making charitable donations without the approval of the Club president and treasurer.

When other groups cosponsor social events with the National Press Club, the cost of the event – and the financial risk -- should be split evenly with the sponsoring organization unless the National Press Club President and the Club's Treasurer approve another arrangement.

The hiring of outside marketing or event-planning consultants is discouraged. Committees can hire outside marketing consultants or event-planning consultants only with the approval of the Club treasurer and president.

Training events by outside organizations

Non-journalism organizations that hold training events at the Club must include a disclaimer on their publicity to the effect that they are not affiliated with the Club. Any listing on the Club web site must also include this disclaimer. The events will not be listed in the Record at all and will not be listed for free on the Club home page unless they both carry the disclaimer and provide at least a 25 percent discount to Club members, under Board of Governors policy to enhance the value of membership. Groups may pay for listing on the home page.

The OpenTheGovernment Letter

Dear Senator...:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to oppose a proposed amendment to S. 236 offered by Sen. Kyl that would unconstitutionally and unnecessarily expand existing espionage statutes.

The amendment offered by Senator Kyl to S. 236 would amend Section 798(a) of Title 18 of the U.S. Code (18 U.S.C. § 798(a)), which criminalizes disclosure of communications intelligence collection and processing methods. The amendment would broaden that section to criminalize the disclosure to the public of any classified information “concerning efforts by the United States to identify, investigate, or prevent terrorist activity.” The proposed amendment is unnecessary, serves no legitimate purpose and in our opinion would be unconstitutionally overbroad.

Unlike the highly sensitive communications intelligence methods already covered by section 798, the proposal would criminalize the disclosure of information that could be classified simply at the discretion of government bureaucrats, including the possibility of wrongdoing or illegality on the part of the government. Such discretion has repeatedly been used to classify information crucial to the free discussion of governmental affairs that is at the core of the First Amendment. Indeed much of the information that would be covered by this amendment is regularly disclosed by the government itself in the course of criminal proceedings or press conferences called by the Attorney General. The proposal thus seeks to stifle, with the threat of criminal prosecution, informed public debate about the most serious matters of the effectiveness of government counterterrorism efforts.

Section 798(a) already covers dissemination of specifically identified intelligence sources and methods; it is a targeted provision that seeks to deter the disclosure of communications intelligence methods, which are seen as more serious than disclosures of other classified information. There is no justification for broadening the reach of that section. Indeed, the purpose and effect of this proposed amendment appears to be to chill the press and other members of the public who receive and share information “concerning efforts by the United States to identify, investigate, or prevent terrorist activity.” The Justice Department itself has concluded that no new legal authorities are necessary to protect against disclosures of such information. (“I conclude that current statutes provide a legal basis to prosecute those who engage in unauthorized disclosures, if they can be identified.” (“Report to Congress on Unauthorized Disclosures,” Attorney General John D. Ashcroft, U.S. Department of Justice, October 15, 2002.”). Thus the amendment is unnecessary to protect classified information.

The Judiciary Committee has held no hearings or debate on the practical or constitutional implications of this amendment. We strongly urge you to reject the proposed amendment.