

## MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Jan. 14, 2005

Sylvia A. Smith

Secretary Sylvia Smith called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Present were President Rick Dunham, Vice president Jonathan Salant, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Governors Joe Anselmo, Alan Bjerga, Gayela Bynum, John Gallagher, Maureen Groppe, Mark Hamrick, Donna Leinwand and Lou Priebe, former president Sheila Cherry and General manager John Bloom. Absent were Treasurer Jerry Zremski, Membership secretary John Donnelly and Governor Alison Bethel.

Smith called for nominations for chair. Anselmo nominated Leinwand, seconded by Groppe. There were no other nominations, and the board approved Salant's motion that Leinwand be elected by acclamation.

Smith called for nominations for vice chair. Salant nominated Hamrick, seconded by Bynum. There were no other nominations, and the board approved Salant's motion that Hamrick be elected by acclamation.

Leinwand assumed the chair.

Smith moved and the board approved the revised minutes of the December meeting.

Smith moved and the board approved the following new members:

### ACTIVE

Susan Cornwell, Reuters Capitol Hill correspondent; Mamoun Fandy, bureau chief, Asharq Al-Awsat Newspaper; Hugo D. Gurdon, editor, The Hill Newspaper; Ken Herman, Cox Newspapers Correspondent; Katsumi Hino, Tokyo Broadcasting System correspondent; Nancy Kercheval, Bloomberg News managing editor; ; Munir Mawari, Asharq Al-Awsat Newspaper deputy bureau chief; Thomas J. Mowbray, Prentice Hall Professional Technical Reference senior editor/non-fiction author; Elena Sokolova, RPR TV, Channel 2, correspondent.

### ACTIVE UNDER 34

Valerie Bauerlein, McClatchy Newspapers, correspondent.

### ACTIVE UNDER 30

Joyce Karam, reporter, Al-Hayat Arabic Daily Newspaper; Gene Kuleta, reporter, Metro Networks; Joshua Rogin, reporter, The Asahi Shimbun; Kertu Ruus, Estonian "Aripaev" correspondent.

### ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT

E. Janice Law, Glaveston Daily News travel correspondent; Md. Sayeed-ur-Rabbis, editor, Weekly Thikana.

#### ACTIVE REINSTATEMENT

Douglas G. Burton, King Communications Group, conference director; Alison Fitzgerald, reporter, Bloomberg News; Nicholas G. Jonson, The McGraw-Hill Companies, associate editor; Lisa Richwine, reporter, Reuters. AFFILIATE Elissa Blake Free, Georgetown University, associate director of communications; Erling Rimestad, Royal Norwegian Embassy, minister counselor, head of press and cultural section; Rebecca Wiggle, public affairs officer, US Army Military District of Washington; Julia Wilson, managing director, Wilson Global Communications.

#### AFFILIATE UNDER 34

Daniel J. McSweeney, media officer, US Marine Corps, Division of Public Affairs.

#### AFFILIATE REINSTATEMENT

Larry McQuillan, media relations, American Institutes for Research.

#### ASSOCIATE

Pamela Tainter Causey, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare; Chuck Porcari, director of communications, League of Conservation Voters.

#### ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT

Ricky Clemons, National Urban League, vice president of communications; Bob Jovanovic, IIC Consantium, media relations manager.

#### ASSOCIATE REINSTATEMENT

Aaron B. Pryor, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, web administrator.

Smith moved and the board approved the authority of the president, treasurer and general manager to sign checks.

Leinwand called for a discussion of member notification of the Second Century Fund. The background is:

A member suggested in December that the Club explain the Second Century Fund \$20 assessment more clearly to new and prospective members so they are not surprised to see the charge on their first invoice.

In November 1999, then-President Larry Lipman wrote this about the Second Century Fund in a letter to the Record: "The dawn of the new century is an appropriate time for us to think about the physical future of the National Press Club.

“The transfer of the building mortgage this Spring was a wakeup call to us to begin planning now for what will happen in 2028 when our lease expires. We may need to make a decision even sooner. It is quite possible that this building -- last renovated in the early 1980s -- will be renovated again in the next 15 or 20 years. At that time, we may have to decide whether to remain here or look elsewhere for a home

“If we choose to stay here beyond 2028, we may need to extensively renovate our quarters, or even purchase our space from the then-owners of the building.

“Any of those options is going to require the NPC to put up a lot of money, which we don’t now have.

“The Long Range Planning Committee, head by John Aubuchon and including several NPC past presidents and other members, has proposed -- and the Board of Governors has endorsed -- the creation of a special building fund to be known as the NPC Second Century Fund. The fund will be specifically used to meet our building location needs in the next century.

“The initial assessment, to be levied on all members except Golden Owls and non-resident retired members (and they can volunteer to contribute), will be \$10 in 2000, \$15 in 2001 and \$20 thereafter. The amount could be changed in the future by the Board.

“We will be asking the membership to approve language governing the management of this fund at our General Members meeting on Jan. 21st. Those of you who know my record on the Board know how much I have fought increases in assessment and dues. But it would be irresponsible of us now to fail to plan for the future of our Club.

“It’s been 15 years since the building’s last renovation. Those of you who were here realize how quickly the years pass. Like the blink of an eye. The next blink will take us to the mid 2010s and the next possible renovation. We can’t wait until then to begin raising money for our future. The time to act is now.”

The General Membership approved the Second Century Fund assessment unanimously on Jan. 21, 2000.

Leinwand noted that an explanatory note has been included in the membership application.

Leinwand called for a discussion about the House Committee’s recommendation that the Club hang the front pages of the New York Post announcing first that Dick Gephardt was John Kerry’s choice for a running mate and then correcting it to John Edwards. The House Committee normally does not seek board action, but the Post’s administrative editor has objected to the Club hanging the

newspapers. The wall hanging chairman usually works through a newspaper's DC office to get a front page to hang, so there's tacit approval when it all comes together. This time, however, Rick Zimmerman got the front pages elsewhere. But he informed the Post that we planned to hang the pages. The response was the denial.

Smith said she would like Bloom to ask the Club attorneys if there is any legal prohibition to hanging front pages if the newspaper in question objects. Salant moved and the board approved a motion to table action until the February meeting.

Smith moved approval of the House Committee's recommendation to name the card room the Paul Means Memorial Card Room. Leinwand moved and the board approved a motion to table until February.

During discussion, Groppe asked about the last time a room was named for a member and whether there had been any objections at the time. Smith said it was when the Committee Room was named for Sarah McClendon, and there were some questions raised on the board, so she conducted research in the Club archives to present a fuller picture of McClendon's Club activities. Leinwand asked Smith to ask the House Committee to develop a written proposal explaining Means' contributions to the Club and personal history, especially for Club members who didn't know him.

Smith asked Leinwand to set up a board committee to develop procedures for naming Club rooms or items in honor of deceased members, and to also develop a list of what rooms and items remain to be named.

Cherry said a memorial service for Means is planned for mid-March. She said she has been asked by the Means family to select items from Means' papers for donation to the Library. Dunham said he will encourage the board and Club members to make donations to the archives in Means' memory and will propose the board match a certain amount. Hamrick suggested having a collection box outside the Reliable Source.

The date of the board-committee retreat is Feb. 5.

Salant proposed and the board approved the following motion:

WHEREAS Sheila Cherry has completed a term as president of the National Press Club; and

WHEREAS Ms. Cherry is the first person of color to hold the Club's top elected position; and

WHEREAS her visible presence at Club luncheons and other events advertised our commitment to diversity;

AND WHEREAS she has been a tireless advocate for member benefits, such as the members-only job fair;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

1. Thanks Sheila Cherry for her service to the Club.
2. Notes the historic nature of her presidency.
3. Reaffirms the Club's commitment to racial, ethnic and sexual diversity.
4. Urges her to remain active in Club affairs.

Dunham asked if it is the sense of the board that the Club will pay for the Means memorial. Smith said memorial services are typically paid for by the Fellowship Committee.

Dunham said he does not intend to appoint a Library Committee and that the Forums Committee will be folded into an expanded Newsmakers Committee. He said he will create a Journalism Training Committee, which will include a mentoring program.

Cherry said in response to Donnelly's update to the board at the last meeting about a letter she declined to sign with other journalism groups that raised concerns about the provisions of the draft intelligence bill, she wanted to make it clear that her objection was based on an experienced Capitol Hill staffer who said the letter wasn't precise enough to shield the Club from allegations that the letter violated gallery rules.

The next meeting is Feb. 7, 2005.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.