

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

January 22, 2007

Theresa Werner and Dipka Bhambhani

Chairwoman Maureen Groppe called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm. Present were President Jerry Zremski, Vice President John Donnelly, Treasurer Donna Leinwand, Membership secretary Mark Hamrick and Governors Alan Bjerga via teleconference, John Gallagher, Keith Hill, Gayela Bynum, Lou Priebe, Theresa Werner and Dipka Bhambhani. Also, General Manager John Bloom and Membership recruitment director Sarahanne Driggs. Secretary Sylvia Smith, Governor Joe Anselmo and former president Jonathan Salant were absent.

Groppe welcomed newly elected board members Theresa Werner and Dipka Bhambhani. She congratulated Zremski on a great inauguration.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Active: Mikhail Bragin, correspondent, International Affairs Journal; W. Clark Bunting, President, Production, Discovery Communications; Kimberly Chipman, Reporter, Bloomberg News; Viola G. Gienger, Editor, Bloomberg News; Assem Kamal, Correspondent, Al-Ahram International; Mark McQuillan, Bureau Chief, Bloomberg News; Fawzia Sheikh, Associate Editor, Inside Washington Publishers; Dennis Steele, Senior Writer, Army Times; Jeanne Theismann, Reporter, The Alexandria Times.

Active Under 35: Brandon J. Lambert, News Editor, Fuji Television; Ray Lehmann, Bureau Manager, A.M. Best Company; Robert Yoon, Director, CNN

Active Under 30: Amanda Carpenter, Assistant Editor, Human Events; Julianna Goldman, Reporter, Bloomberg News; Catherine Larkin, Reporter, Bloomberg News

Active Reinstatement: Chuck Raasch, Editor, Gannett Company, Inc.

Active Non-Resident Reinstatement: Carl Edgar Law, Freelance Reporter

Provisional: Carol A. Nippert, Editorial Assistant, Hearst Newspapers

Affiliate: Claudia L. Bogard, Director of Communications, FAA; Mason L. Essif, Senior Vice-President, Media Relations, Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide;

Affiliate Non Resident: Robert Steven Duncan, Director International Communications, IESE

Associate: David E. Autry, Deputy Director of Communications, Disabled American Veterans; Stephen W. Bird, Academic Director, National Journalism Center; Leigh Strobe, Assistant Director of Communications, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Rebecca Sullivan, Director of Public Affairs, NASULGC

Associate Non-Resident: Joseph Finnerty, Partner, Stenger & Finnerty

Hamrick said one member has signed up so far from the CNN fieldtrip. He said he will have a better idea by the end of the month how successful the event was.

He said he has held the first board membership committee meeting with Jennifer Sergent as chairwoman. An emphasis will be on recruiting non-resident members. He said he will meet with Bynum and Priebe about associate and affiliate members. There are 9 associate seats open.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Young Members -- has touched base with new committee chair and will be meeting on Thursdays.

House -- Met on January 8. Working on increasing Saturday usage in the Reliable Source. Looking to extend the hours until 11:00 pm. The biggest cost will be labor. Zremski will be at the members' table on the first Saturday of every month to be available to members. Zremski is encouraging all committees to meet on at least one Saturday in the Reliable Source.

Speakers -- Hoping to get big-name speakers. Myron Belkind is working to line up heads of states. The committee also wants to book top-tier presidential candidates.

Freedom of the Press -- Will be getting together soon. Hope to make the committee bigger.

Broadcast Committee -- Expanding AM programming, training 2 more producers. First newsmaker program aired on XM. Working on next roundtable discussion and exploring underwriting. A Saturday meeting is scheduled for April 1.

Communications and Marketing -- Planning a training session in the Broadcast Center on how to conduct yourself on a broadcast.

Newsmakers -- Had Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid as the first big newsmaker of the year. In March the National Guard Reserves will use Newsmakers to release a big report.

House Committee -- It is too early to tell if there has been a decline in business due to the smoking ban.

Travel -- 17 people have signed up for the Buenos Aires trip. Next year there will only be a trip over MLK weekend and not over Presidents Day weekend. The Malta trip has been canceled. March 20 is a Travel Committee reception. Travel Committee will have a Saturday meeting on April 21.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Leinwand expenses are coming due for the centennial documentary and that without fundraising, money will have to come from the operating budget to cover its costs.

She also said the auditors will be requesting disclosure statements on what interests board members have in private companies. Audit Report should be out in March or April. Club Essentials is almost ready to go. It is safe for board members to use. She said she would like to create a tutorial for Club members so they can learn how to use it. She is also looking into making the system allow credit cards to be used.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Bloom said the Club website was completed last Friday. The Club is doing feeds and webcasts. The CNN promo piece and the documentary preview will be added to the website. Zremski commented on how great the new website looks and gave kudos to all of those involved. It was suggested that the New Media Committee put together a policy and procedure for putting more photos on the website and making them available for purchase with a certain percentage going towards the club's centennial fund.

The artwork and property in the club has been appraised \$3,824,920. In 1996 it was \$1,528,000; in 2001, \$1,908,000. The Rockwell was most valuable at \$2,750,000.

Flooding in the BOC occurred on Jan. 4 when a valve blew off on the 9th floor. Estimated repair costs \$150,000-\$200,000. The cost will be covered by insurance.

The Library board's name change was completed by DC Government.

Bloom said that speakers for luncheons need to be informed of the banner that is outside. It needs to be made clear that it isn't a picket line.

Bloom said he has begun the process of renewing the Club's trademark of its name and seal, which must be done every 10 years.

The Kalb Report will be Feb. 5. On Feb. 20 the NPC, White House Correspondents and C-SPAN will host White House spokesman Tony Snow, who will ask questions of the journalists on the panel.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Zremski said he plans to send a report via email to the board each Saturday or Sunday. He said he is concerned about the building elevators not going straight to the Club at 7:30 a.m. Clients and members have to get to the Club at 7:30 a.m. in the morning no matter what, he said.

He said the board-committee chairs retreat was rescheduled for Feb. 10.

He said he is considering having the 2-day IRE conference in March or April.

Zremski said a change is needed in how the Fourth Estate Award Committee is structured because some recent presidents have struggled to find a good way to fill the committee and the most-deserving people are likely to be chosen for the award when there is a broader spectrum of nominees.

Zremski moved and the board approved a motion to restructure the Fourth Estate Award Committee as follows: the committee will be chaired by the president of the Club, who will have a one-year term. The board will also include six members with staggered three-year terms. The president will present two nominees to the board each year for ratification.

Under the restructuring, Zremski will appoint two committee members to three-year terms; past president Jonathan Salant will appoint two people to two-year terms; and the 2005 president, Rick Dunham, will appoint two people to one-year terms. In subsequent years, the current year's president will appoint two members to two-year terms.

Zremski said the Freedom of the Press Committee has been expanded beyond two people and is meeting regularly. He asked board members to ponder whether the Club should endorse legislation. He said the Communications and Marketing Committee and the University of Maryland want to do a survey with members of Congress on the shield law. Zremski said it's a good way of getting the NPC name out on free press issues. Any group such as Reporters Without Borders, or the Reporters Committee to Protect Journalists would be involved.

Leinwand proposed bringing an expert in, a working journalist who has dealt with all these issues to speak to the board. She suggested Pete Weitzel or Ken Paulson, editor of USAToday.

Donnelly said the Club has endorsed legislation in the past but said it's difficult for individual reporters to take positions. Other presidents have been quoted on free press issues but have been careful not to slap the administration in a too-provocative way, he said. Leinwand said the Club should do something about Dink, the Armenian journalist who was shot recently by a 17-year-old boy in Turkey. Donnelly suggested bringing in Carlotta Gaul, an Army journalist.

Zremski said the Club is behind schedule on the NPC strategic plan and will not be completed in June. He said he will draft a new timeline and review it with the staff. Hill said it's important that the Strategic Planning Committee, now the Future Task Force, have enforcement authority. Zremski said the board can rename the committee but can't give it the enforcement authority now. He said it'd like it to be a permanent committee of the board. Groppe said the Strategic Planning Committee is the new name for the Future Task Force.

Hamrick and Bloom said they had been talking with Lou Diamond, someone who can digitize NPC archives in exchange for content from the archives. Zremski suggested Hamrick and Bloom should continue discussions but not commit to anything as the NPC archives are proprietary and board members want to make sure the information is not sold. Leinwand said she is worried about offering NPC content for free. She said every time someone downloads from Diamond's site, the Club should make money. Priebe endorsed Diamond as an upstanding friend and business associate. Hamrick said the NPC has already turned over its archives to the Library of Congress but wants an attorney to look at the lingering issue of intellectual property protection.

Bloom said the NPC had never copyrighted anything until the Club started working with XM Radio.

Donnelly moved and the board adopted the following resolution: Mark Hamrick as board chairman and Jonathan D. Salant as president exercised great leadership in overseeing NPC activities in 2006 and the board commends them and thanks them for their outstanding service.

The next board meeting was set for Feb. 26.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.