

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
June 16, 2008
Maureen Groppe, Secretary**

Chairman Keith Hill called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were President Sylvia Smith, Treasurer Alan Bjerga, Secretary Maureen Groppe, Vice Chairman John Donnelly, former President Jerry Zremski and Governors John Hughes, Lou Priebe, Theresa Werner, Jennifer Sergent, John Gallagher and Gayela Bynum. Also General Manager Bill McCarren, Director of Membership Recruitment Jane Middleton, Scholarships Committee Chairman Mary Clare Jalonick, and representatives from the Ribis, Jones & Maresca accounting firm.

Groppe moved and the board approved the minutes of the May meeting.

Auditor David Jones presented the Ribis, Jones & Maresca firm's audit to the board. Jones said it's a clean audit. He said revenues were up in most categories last year while expenses were down. He said very healthy organizations have reserves funds of about 50 percent while the Club's are at 14-15 percent. That makes the Club vulnerable to a big loss year. He said the Club will have to work up to a larger reserves as it would be difficult to get to 50 percent quickly without major cuts in services. He said field work for an IRS audit of the Club has been completed but the audit has not been finalized. He's hoping the remaining issue will be straightened out in a few months.

Bjerga moved and the board approved the auditors' report.

MEMBERSHIP

Werner moved and the board approved the applications of 48 members. Werner moved and the board approved retired dues status for seven members.

SCHOLARSHIP

Groppe moved and the board approved the Scholarship Committee's recommendations that Sheila Lalwani receive the Zimmerman Scholarship and Kathleen Kilpatrick receive the Feldman Scholarship.

Jalonick said Mrs. Feldman wants to restrict the Feldman Scholarship to recipients born in the United States. The board discussed whether scholarship criteria can be changed at the request of the endower once the scholarship is established. Some board members said they are fine restricting the scholarship to U.S. citizens, but not to those born in the U.S. Jalonick said she would ask Mrs. Feldman if she's OK with restricting the scholarship to U.S. citizens. Smith said she's asked Groppe and former President Rick Dunham to review the history of the scholarships and awards that have been endowed by others.

The board thanked Jalonick and the Scholarship Committee for their hard work.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE LIASON REPORTS

Awards -- The board agreed that the committee should ask the Kozik family about proposed changes to the awards category.

Freedom of the Press -- **Donnelly moved and the board approved giving the John Aubuchon Award for Press Freedom in the international category to Qi Chonghuai of China.**

Photography -- Getting ready for the members photography exhibit and hosting a lunch meeting with the developer of "critter cam."

4th Estate Award Dinner -- The Nov. 21 dinner will be used as a fundraiser for the library so board members will not receive free tickets and former presidents will be encouraged to buy their own tickets. The fundraising goal is \$25,000.

Futures Task Force -- Final survey results are completed and will be used to help complete the strategic plan. Highlights include a lack of interest in the gym, strong interest in professional development activities, and good reviews for the restaurants.

5 K Race -- The committee has received only \$5,000 in sponsorships and at least \$30,000 is needed. Board members were encouraged to donate or get their employers to donate.

Book & Author -- Upcoming authors include Alvin Felzenberg and Reps. Loretta and Linda Sanchez. There will be an August wine dinner with the author of "The Heirloom Tomato Cookbook."

Professional Development -- Upcoming events include a seminar on interpreting polling data and on applying for international fellowships.

Events -- Board members were encouraged to volunteer to cook or pick members up from the Metro at the June 28 picnic. Other upcoming activities include "The Hunting Party" movie dinner and a wine tasting.

Communications & Marketing -- Promoting the centennial DVD, the 5K race, the book fair and luncheon speakers.

Young members -- Had a successful rafting trip. Upcoming activities include a Breakfast with Champions and a Taco Night with Champions, and a night at the Hungarian Embassy.

Speakers -- Upcoming speakers include Rep. Henry Waxman and race care driver Jimmy Johnson.

Newsmakers -- Held 39 events so far. Upcoming newsmakers include the prime minister of Bulgaria and the French ambassador.

Travel -- Upcoming trips include those to Quebec, Thailand and Laos, Hong Kong, Dublin, Egypt, Costa Rica, and the Baltic.

International Correspondents -- Holding a panel discussion with international journalists and an international quiz at the picnic. Working on a daytrip to Amish country.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bjerga said the Club is about to enter the expected slow summer months. The goal for the next few months is looking at the reserves situation and setting a target. Also, the budgeting process for next year will begin in July. Bjerga asked board members to be familiar with how much money the committees they work with have spent. He said committees are not spending a lot but are doing a lot.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

McCarren said Club revenues between April and May were the strongest 60-day period in the Club's history, although the May figures included a \$100,000 contribution from Aviva. Bookings for July and August are slow, but are about where they have been in past years at this point. McCarren said the Club should earn what it needs over the summer if revenues are not lower than in previous summers.

McCarren said the capital improvement projects are proceeding and should be done on time. Also, the Club has to comply with city codes on installing grease traps or filters. McCarren said this is an expensive problem and he's looking for a good solution.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Smith said the Club has been inundated with calls and emails from people upset that the Club rented a room to someone who wants to criticize Barack Obama.

The library board is making a request to the National Press Foundation to draw down money from the Freidham bequest for the library remodeling.

Hughes and Gallagher have been looking into other ways to produce the Record and McCarren is getting cost estimates for outsourcing production.

NEW BUSINESS

Hill reported that an email vote was conducted on May 29. Groppe moved and the board approved the recommendations from the Awards Committee on the outstanding categories. Members voting yes were Smith, Hamrick, Hill, Groppe, Hughes, Sergeant, Gallagher, Bjerga, and Leinwand. Members voting no were Werner, Donnelly and Bhambhani.

The next meeting was set for July 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15p.m.

