

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

June 18, 2007

Sylvia Smith, Secretary

Chairwoman Maureen Groppe called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Present were President Jerry Zremski, Vice President John Donnelly, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Treasurer Donna Leinwand, and Governors John Gallagher, Keith Hill, Lou Priebe, Theresa Werner and Dipka Bhambhani and former President Jonathan Salant. Also, General Manager John Bloom and Membership director Julie Schoo and Scholarship Committee chairwoman Mary Clare Jalonick. Membership Secretary Mark Hamrick and Governors Alan Bjerga, Joe Anselmo and Gayela Bynum were absent.

Smith moved and the board approved the minutes of the May 21 meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

On behalf of Hamrick, Donnelly moved and the board approved the applications of the following 37 people:

Active: Nader Abed, Al Jazeera, chief of operations; Melissa August, freelance reporter/researcher; Kenneth Choi, The Chosum Daily Newspaper bureau chief; Anne Davies, Sydney Morning Herald, Washington correspondent; Jason Dick, Atlantic Media/Congress Daily, managing editor; Deborah Gump, Committee of Concerned Journalists, print/online director; Kathryn Kross, Bloomberg News bureau chief; Lee Ha-Won, The Chosunilbo Daily, staff writer; S. Kelly McCarthy, self-employed writer; Amy Morris, WTOP/WFED, executive editor; Ryuichi Otsuka, The Yomiuri Shimbun, Washington bureau chief; Denis Staunton, The Irish Times, Washington bureau chief.

Active under 35: Joe Mocerone, Kuwait News Agency, Washington correspondent; Terri Wu, Epoch Times, reporter; Chunfang Yang, New Tang Dynasty TV, reporter.

Active under 30: Jessy Elmurr, Al Jazeera, producer; Katharine Zambon, Electiononline.org, writer/researcher.

Active non-resident: Terry James Dee, Corning, N.Y., freelance writer; William D. Falcon, Rapidan, Va., freelance writer/editor; Sebastian Junger, New York, N.Y., self-employed author.

Active reinstatement: Christopher Fotos, Aviation Week, web managing editor; James M. Greene, NBC News, satellite uplink engineer/cameraman; Mary Mosquera, Federal Computer Week/110 Media, senior writer/reporter.

Affiliate: Wondimu Asamnew, Embassy of Ethiopia, head of public relations; Rahul Chhabram, Embassy of India, press counselor; Sharon Campbell Giron, British government, retired public affairs officer; Chour Thong Goh, Embassy of the Republic of Singapore, first secretary, information.

Affiliate non-resident: Thomas DiBacco, Minneapolis, Broadhead & Co., public relations lead; Mary M. Thompson, Oak Brook, Ill., Farm Foundation, director of communications.

Affiliate non-resident reinstatement: Ray Jefferson, Singapore, McKinsey & Co., Consultant.

Request for affiliate status: Joanne Giordano. U.S. Postal Service, vice president of public affairs and communications.

Student: Sana Qadar: Ryerson University/CTV News.

Student non-resident: Benjamin van der Horst, Emory University.

Associate: Rodney Ferguson, Lipman Hearne Inc., managing director and principal; H. Alexander Manuel, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, chief administrative judge.

Associate under 35: Raj Kumar, The Development Executive Group, publisher.

Associate reinstatement: Martha J. Lockwood, American Association of Political Consulting, executive director.

Building tenant: Evon Bank, ELS Team-EPA, computer analyst.

Donnelly moved and the board approved reciprocal status for a journalists' club in Santiago, Chile.

Donnelly moved and the board approved the Chilean National Journalism Association as a reciprocal club.

BOARD COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Scholarship – Jalonick presented the committee's recommendation for the recipient of the \$5,000 Feldman Award, Sarah Lynch, a reporter at the East Valley Tribune in Mesa, Az., who will study investigative journalism at Columbia University. **Groppe moved and the board approved the committee's recommendation.** Groppe also thanked the committee, on behalf of the board, for the time the members devoted to selecting the nominee.

House – The annual facility tour was held. Management is working on replacing the TVs in the Reliable Source with big, flat-screen TVs. There will be fewer, but they will be easier to see. The Reliable Source kitchen needs to be updated, and the exhaust system needs to be replaced.

International Correspondents – Successful recruiting reception.

Professional Development – Wrapped up TV training. Is coordinating with New Media Committee on blogging training in July.

Events – Picnic is June 30; also planned are an art show, pizza night, and a ballroom dancing class.

Press Freedom – A letter was sent to Senate leaders expressing support for legislation on FOIA reforms. Zremski put out a statement in support of the BBC reporter captured in Gaza.

Photo – Has a web page on the NPC website; seminar on photo tips set for July 23.

New Media – There is now a direct link to the Record from the front page; is working on a better daybook.

Newsmakers – Former Housing secretaries Kemp and Cisneros on June 19.

Young members -- Hosted Dana Milbank for cocktails with champions; plans a dinner with the Russian State News Service is June 26; hosts a travel writing panel on June 28; hosts a Breakfast With Champions with NYT magazine writer Matt Bai on July 17; plan Speed Networking on July 10.

Mentor -- Needs more interested mentors for a fall class of the mentor program.

Books & Brunch -- Met Saturday. 14 people attended. 13 ordered food.

The book club meets again July 21 to discuss "A Peace to End All Peace" by David Fromkin. Travel -- Alaska cruise, June 6-13, 6 persons signed up. India, Sept. 26-Oct. 9; 6 signed up but more are needed. Japan, Oct. 29-Nov. 5; 23 signed up, five of whom are from New York. The price is \$2,835. Panama Canal cruise, Nov. 30-Dec. 11; 8 signed up. For next year: Rome, Jan. 16-21. Cost: \$1,735. This is the annual MLK extended long weekend trip, with a non-stop United flight from Dulles to Rome. French Riviera, March 21-29. Cost: \$1,825, with air fare additional. Group will stay in one hotel, in Menton, France, on the Mediterranean. There will be optional post-trip extensions to Paris or London. Northern Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, October. Still in the planning stages.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Bloom said he has been working with Bill McCarren, who will take over as general manager on July 9. He said accounting is short two people, and he is looking for a night manager. The House Committee will consider a recommendation to close the Fourth Estate for 2 weeks in August, as usual. He said the board may want to consider not having the Reliable Source open on Saturdays in August.

OLD BUSINESS

Groppe reported that, via an email vote, the remaining award winners were finalized.

Gallagher reported that he met with Publications Committee chairwoman Lorna Aldrich on the issue of paying photographers but not Record writers and editors. He said it comes down to tradition and the matter of supply and demand; there are just 6 people available to shoot photos. The normal fee for a Record photo is \$20, which used to cover the cost of film and developing supplies. Gallagher said Aldrich said she thinks there would be an uproar if the photo fees were discontinued. Board members asked various questions, such as whether the people who cover events for the Record have expenses such as driving/parking. Smith said it is unfair and wrong for a volunteer organization to single out one type of journalist for payment. Zremski said a procedure for allowing people to purchase photos off the web could be a solution in which the photographers would get some of the proceeds. He said he would like to find a way to transition out of the old system. Gallagher said Aldrich raised the question of copyright. Zremski said it can be set up so that no one can download a photo for free. Leinwand said if the NPC pays a photographer for the photo, the Club owns the copyright, not the photographer. Bloom said he is planning on having a digital camera for the Broadcast Center, which could be used to take photos for the Record. He also said the Club pays \$10,000 a year to Club members who take photos for the Club. Werner said that for that amount, the Record could buy its own digital camera and still not spend it all. Smith said if the 2008 budget proposal includes money to pay photographers, she will move to zero out the sum. Zremski asked Salant to convey to the New Media Committee the board's interest in having Club-shot photos available for sale on line, and asked Gallagher to tell the photographers that this is a problem the board will solve in the 2008 budget, so it is to their benefit to help work on a solution.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Zremski said the transcripts of the focus groups are being transcribed and will be reviewed for themes. The written report will come in July 1, and then the first steps will be taken toward planning the survey of members and non-members.

Zremski briefed the board about a German web site that appears to be selling press credentials using the NPC logo. He said he sent the operator – a member of the Club – a stern email that said he would recommend the member's membership be suspended. The member did not reply; Zremski said he would ask Tom Glad to send it in German. Bloom noted that the use of the NPC

logo in this way violates our trademark. The board discussed whether this violates the House rules as written. **Salant moved and the board approved the recommendation that Zremski suspend the member for violating Rule 4.**

Zremski said this illustrates a need to refine Club rules. Salant said the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will discuss it.

Zremski said the Center for American Progress wants a blogger to come to NPC press conferences. He said he would tell them that the blogger is welcome to apply for associate membership. Smith said the issue is not whether someone blogs but whether the entity they blog for is considered a journalism outlet under NPC membership rules.

Zremski reported that member Rick Zimmerman is proposing to make a \$200,000 donation for a scholarship. The money will be used to buy an annuity that will pay 6 percent a year for support of the scholarship. When Zimmerman dies, the principal would come to the Library. He said the particulars of who would receive the scholarship have not been decided, though Zimmerman wants it to be related to journalism and not targeted to a particular type of applicant. Zremski said this is a wonderful prototype for older members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Leinwand said the financial outlook going into the summer is much improved after receiving our tax refund checks. There is more than \$900,000 in cash going into the slow months. The Pyramid case is closed. The settlement money has been paid and will appear as a debit in the May financials of \$77,500

Howard Rothman and Bloom have negotiated a contract with a consultant to get the Club on the GSA vendor list. The budget committee recommends approval. **Leinwand moved and the board approved a motion to approve the contract with the GSA consultant for \$15,000.**

Leinwand moved and the board approved a motion to add incoming general manager Bill McCarren as a signatory on NPC bank accounts.

She said the Club needs a written reimbursement policy. **Leinwand moved and the board approved the following policy:**

The National Press Club will reimburse employees for travel, meals and other outside expenses incurred in the course of their jobs. Employees must present receipts. Expenses must be approved by the controller and general manager.

The National press Club will reimburse Club members for expenses incurred on behalf of the Club in conducting Club activities and authorized by a Committee chairperson or Club officer. Members who incur such expenses must submit receipts and an expense form to the Committee chair who authorized the expenditure. The Committee chair must review the expenses and submit to the Club treasurer. The Club treasurer will submit the expenses to the controller who will reimburse the member from the Committee account.

The board moved into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

The next meeting was set for July 23. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm