

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
JUNE 14, 2004
By Sylvia Smith, Secretary

Vice chairwoman Donna Leinwand called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Present were President Sheila Cherry, Vice President Rick Dunham, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Treasurer Jonathan Salant, and Governors Jerry Bastarache, Gayela Bynum, John Gallagher and Mark Hamrick, Fourth Estate Awards Committee chairwoman Ann McFeatters and General manager John Bloom and Membership director Julie Schoo. Absent were Membership secretary Jerry Zremski, Chairman John Donnelly and Governors Alison Bethel, Larry Bivins and Jack Cushman.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

In Zremski's absence, Dunham moved the following list of individuals proposed for membership. It was laid upon the table until a quorum arrived.

Active: Carrie Devorah, Self-employed investigative photo journalist; Victor Epstein, reporter Bloomberg LP; Mark E. Heckathorn, editor, McGraw-Hill.

Active Under 34: Joe Fiorill, reporter, National Journal Group.

Active Under 30: Dolores Bernal, reporter, WPFW.

Active Non-Resident: Aretha Williams, freelancer, San Antonio Express.

Associate: David T. Boddie, executive vice president of media, Montgomery County; Dale Curtis, senior director, Dittus Communications; Paul Devantier, director, Infant Adoption Awareness; Alvin S. Felzenberg, communications deputy, Natl. Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the U.S.; Joseph A. Luchok, public affairs director, March of Dimes; Joyce Patterson, P.R. director, Ford's Theatre; Gloria Redman, CEO, Triumph Technologies; Lynn Schrickte, Author; Larry B. Tunks, chief information officer, Congressional Quarterly; Mantill J. Williams, public affairs director, Automobile Association.

Associate Non Resident: Emily Tynes, communication director, American Civil Liberties Union.

Associate Under 34: Traci Talerico, director, Institute on Political Journalism.

Total applications approved: 18. Total Members as of June 2004: 3,829
Total as of June 2003: 3,924.

The Board discussed the situation with Knight-Ridder, which has moved its offices from the building and which has informed the Club that it will no longer pay the dues of its 44 Washington-based employees. Bloom told the Board that Knight-Ridder President Tony Ridder had told then-President Tammy Lytle last year that the organization would continue to support the Club. Zremski has drafted a letter to Ridder and will ask Cherry to send it. He said he also recommends a one-on-one campaign to persuade Knight Ridder employees to pay their own dues and possibly offering them an incentive to do so. Smith said if the Board does such, it should have a ready explanation to small bureaus of why they are not also offered an incentive, such as that if NPC membership erodes, there would be no Club to have services for anyone.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Bloom said catering is up from last year, but the assessment of the building also increased, and therefore the pass-through will increase to \$135727, a 220% increase. Operations expenses pass-through costs are down, but the net increase is more than \$56,000. He said the real estate assessment is being protested, but the taxes still must be paid. Other unanticipated costs are an increase in food prices.

With the arrival of some Board members, a quorum was reached, and the motion to approve new members was adopted.

The Board moved into executive session to discuss the 2004 Fourth Estate Award winner. The Board then resumed open session.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Cherry said she has notified the award winners. She said she spoke at the National Association of Hispanic Journalists' D.C. convention. She said she will meet with the Knight-Ridder bureau chief to discuss the dues issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dunham said the 5K Committee is still working on raising sponsorships and has several new ideas, including a raffle of tickets to the Quarterback Club

event. (In exchange for room rental, the Club was given tickets to a table of 10.)

Cherry said she has talked to the Book and Author Committee about how to handle charging non-members.

Bastarache said the Record has begun covering Newsmaker events. He said the committee is in search of additional members who are computer savvy.

Salant said the Professional Affairs Committee wanted to have a panel on the issue of the revolving door (journalism to P.R.) but that he told them that it was not a professional affairs topic.

He said the softball team is in first place and that the picnic is July 10. There was some discussion about whether it should be open to all Club staff as well as members because the permit allows 40 people. Smith noted that the Board agreed last month that it would be open to the staff and their families.

Leinwand said the Young Members Committee is planning a panel on how to get a fellowship and will have a speed networking event July 22.

OLD BUSINESS

Cherry thanked Bloom and the staff for an excellent job when Vice President Cheney was at the Club.

NEW BUSINESS

Salant moved and the Board approved the winners of the 2003 journalism awards contest.

Dunham moved and the Board approved the recipient of the 2003 Feldman scholarship. Bastarache asked whether the scholarship should go to a former military person who has access to the GI Bill. Dunham said the rules don't specify need, and that the committee had discussed that issue and selected him. Bastarache said if he had a vote, he would vote no.

Dunham said he inquired into the policy of the slim price margin offered to members and non-members for various training events in the Library. He said it turns out that the event was not sponsored or co-sponsored by the Library, but that the space was rented by an outside group. Salant said no program that doesn't follow the Club policy of offering a substantial discount to members should be publicized in the Record or on the web site. Cherry agreed. Bloom said the Board voted several years ago to allow non-

NPC events to be mentioned on the web site. Dunham moved and the Board approved the following policy:

It is the policy of the Board of Governors of the National Press Club that, when training programs are held at the National Press Club (including the Eric Friedheim Library) but are not sponsored or co-sponsored by the National Press Club or Eric Friedheim Library, any publicity for those events (such as fliers or listservs) must contain a disclaimer noting that the event is not sponsored or co-sponsored by the National Press Club or the Eric Friedheim Library. The Board of Governors of the National Press Club strongly urges the board of the Friends of the National Journalism Library to adopt this policy.

The Board moved into executive session to discuss a matter from the Disciplinary (Ethics) Committee and then resumed open session.

Dunham moved and the Board approved the May minutes.

The next meeting will be July 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.