

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
JUNE 27, 2005
Sylvia Smith, Secretary**

Chairwoman Donna Leinwand called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Present were President Rick Dunham, Vice president Jonathan Salant, Secretary Sylvia Smith and Membership secretary John Donnelly and Governors Joe Anselmo, Alan Bjerga, Gayela Bynum, John Gallagher, Maureen Groppe, Mark Hamrick and Lou Priebe. Also present were General manager John Bloom, Membership director Julie Schoo, Photography Committee chairman Marshall Cohen and Howard Rothman, director of the audio-visual department. Treasurer Jerry Zremski and Governor Alison Bethel were absent.

Smith moved and the board approved adoption of the May 23 minutes.

Cohen asked the board to take a policy position on crediting photographs in newspapers and magazines. He said the practice among editors not to use photo credits for news photographers is growing, and that the committee would like the NPC to be on record as supporting crediting. Board members asked whether Cohen was saying all photos should carry a credit line (yes) or whether his concern was the unauthorized use of photos (yes). Board members noted that when print journalists sell a story, it is up to the publication to decide whether to use a byline or not. Board members asked Cohen to ask the Photo Committee to draft specific language of a proposed resolution so the board would have something concrete to consider.

Donnelly moved approval of the following 31 membership applicants; the board approved them unanimously:

ACTIVE: William Carey, associate editor, Traffic World; Shobhana Chandra, reporter, Bloomberg News; Tom Clark, bureau chief, CTV Canadian TV; King-ming Liu, columnist, Apple Daily; Joy Malbon, correspondent, CTV Canadian TV; Thomas Nordegren, correspondent, Swedish Broadcasting; Frank Perryman, deputy director, Associated Press.

ACTIVE UNDER 34: Keiron Greenhalgh, associate editor, Platts; Arindam Mukeherjee, editor, America Online; Qinduo Xu, reporter, China Radio International.

ACTIVE UNDER 30: Lisa Dixon, associate editor, Kiplinger Washington Editors; Sean Mussenden, correspondent, Media General News Service; Esther Whieldon, associate editor, McGraw-Hill, Platts.

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT: Larry C. Farrell, author; Richard G. Pryor, news and public affairs manager, OETA .

PROVISIONAL: John Gilstrap, author.

AFFILIATE: Keith Blackman, director of media practice, Burson-Marsteller; Mitsuru Kitano, minister of public affairs, Embassy of Japan; Ghulam Murtaza, broadcaster, Voice of America; Patrick C. Ross, vice president of communications, The Progress & Freedom Foundation.

AFFILIATE NON-RESIDENT: Anne W. Buckley, director of communications, Abio AKI Realty - People Newspapers.

ASSOCIATE: Feroza Allee, senior program adviser, The Washington Center; Susan I. Brewer, founder, American's Heroes of Freedom Fund; Susan Subak, writer; Jack Wynn, president and CEO, Jack Wynn & Co. Inc.

ASSOCIATE UNDER 34: Anna S. Balishina, media and public relations, The Pbn Co.; Lori Russo, vice president of media strategy, Stanton Communications.

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT: Lawrence D. Dietz, director of solutions and strategy, Symantec Corp.; Terri Hasdroff, executive director, Office of Governor Bob Riley; Cynthia Stapp, director of public relations, American Academy of Family Physicians; Ralph Williams, vice president of corporate communications, The Titan Corp.

Donnelly noted that six applications were submitted as a result of the International Correspondents Committee's reception and two from a June 9 Young Members Committee happy hour.

Donnelly moved approval and the board approved retired dues status for two members and a six-month dues waiver for two others.

Donnelly distributed the list of active members (resident) and asked board members to review them for any discrepancies in anticipation of the December election.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Salant (filling in for Zremski) said net income of the Club is down almost 25 percent from budget expectations primarily because of a slowdown in catering.

Salant moved the Club shift its investment portfolio to BB&T. Salant said the move was necessary in order to use the reserve funds as collateral in the loan for the 4th floor expansion project. Smith asked whether there is any cost associated with the move; Bloom said there is not. **The board unanimously approved the motion.**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Bloom said the leases on the 4th floor have been signed and the finances all worked out. He said the base building plans provided by Quadrangle, owner of the building, did not show some existing girders, so that slowed the design process. He said he has asked the building for some financial consideration because of the two-week interruption. Bloom and Rothman responded to board members' questions about minor changes in the project:

Will members have free access? Yes.

Will the space look like an extension of the 13th floor? Yes.

What are the changes from the original plan? The small studio moved but is still planned.

Has the Communications and Marketing Committee provided any marketing plan yet? Staff wants to wait until more details are worked out.

Bloom and Rothman said they have started talking to potential studio clients and will have a satellite partner – British Telecom. XM Satellite will have connectivity full time, and the JW Marriott will carry the NPC studio's rate card. The studio will be an all-digital operation.

Bloom said the Reliable Source dishwasher broke; a replacement cost \$20,000. The replacement of the Holeman Lounge floor with bamboo flooring is completed. The square bar between the Holeman and First Amendment will be refinished and the entryway modified. The building has given permission to put plants in the window well outside the First Amendment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dunham said plans for the director of journalism are moving ahead and asked anyone with suggestions to contact him.

A weekend planned for non-resident members is July 15-18 and will include an opening reception featuring Don Ritchie, assistant Senate historian.

Work is progressing on a way to present the Freedom of the Press/International award to the Ukranian journalists.

(Bjerga arrived at this point.)

Dunham thanked board members for getting their employers to become sponsors of the 5K.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

Leinwand said a member complained about the Heritage Foundation's co-sponsorship of a computer assisted journalism class conducted in the training room of the Library. The member complained that Heritage's web site implies that Investigative Reporters and Editors co-sponsors it. In addition, Tom Glad's endorsement appears on the Heritage web site. Dunham noted that the Library board would discuss the Library's role. Salant said he has objected to the program since it began. He said the Club shouldn't partner with any political advocacy group. Anselmo asked how the program meshes with the Club's policy on co-sponsorships. Dunham said it's a grey area, but that it was within the Library, not the Club. Donnelly said if IRE has a problem with Heritage's mention of it, IRE should raise the issue. Leinwand said if the board feels the program reflects poorly on the Club, the board could ask the Library board to reconsider.

The board moved into executive session to discuss a discipline issue and a prize.

OLD BUSINESS

Groppe distributed proposed working for a new award, which was endowed by a member. After minor wording changes, **Groppe moved and the board approved the following criteria for an award to be offered in 2006:**

Annual National Press Club Ann Cottrell Free Animal Reporting Award

This award honors excellence in reporting about animals. Established by the family of journalist and longtime Press Club member Ann Cottrell Free, who wrote extensively about animals and their welfare, this prize recognizes serious work by journalists that informs and educates the public about threats facing animals.

Categories:

1. Print/Online
2. Broadcast

Entries: Entries must consist of a single article or broadcast or a series of related articles or broadcasts, which will be judged as a unit. A letter detailing how and why the entry demonstrates original and thought-provoking reporting should accompany the entry. Submissions that provide evidence of impact or prompted action will be given particular consideration.

Prize: \$1,000 award for each category.

NEW BUSINESS

Donnelly said the Fourth Estate Selection Committee recommended the creation of a new “President’s Citation” to honor journalists who could be considered to be winners of the Fourth Estate lifetime achievement award except that they are not household names. The committee said the award should not be given at the Fourth Estate dinner but suggested it could be given at the summer Awards banquet.

Salant and Donnelly agreed at the May 23 Board meeting to formulate for the Board’s consideration criteria for the selection of the “President’s Citation” winner. They proposed:

- The President’s Citation winner should be announced at the Awards banquet.
- The citation should be a regular annual award.
- The award should go to a journalist who, like a Fourth Estate winner, has had a long and successful journalistic career that embodies the values we cherish—fairness and accuracy above all—but whose name is not widely known.
- The Fourth Estate Selection Committee should, as part of its annual recommendation of a Fourth Estate Award winner, also recommend to the Club president names of recommended winners of the President’s Citation Award; the president should then select a winner from that list or beyond; and the Board then should approve either the president’s candidate or an alternative at least a month prior to the Awards dinner.

Smith asked why the board should have veto power if it’s the president’s award. Salant said the idea is to parallel the Fourth Estate Award. Bjerga said it’s a good idea in conception, but it makes assumptions about who is and is not a household name, and it presumes that the Fourth Estate Award goes to a glamour recipient. Dunham said he doesn’t mind having a one-time award this year. Bjerga said it shouldn’t be a consolation prize. Dunham said it would be for a career of exceptional Washington journalism. Smith asked if there were a money prize (no). She said then that suggests it is an also-ran award, especially at an event where all other winners receive a cash award.

Donnelly moved approval of the award and the recommendations. The board approved, with one “no” vote (Bjerga).

Dunham moved transferring \$2,500 from the budget of the Professional Affairs Committee to the budget of the Journalism Training Committee. He further moved that \$500 be transferred from the Fitness Committee to the Young Members Committee. It was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

The 100th anniversary party will be April 12, 2008.

The affiliates/associates group will meet at 6 pm July 12.

Freedom of the Press Committee issued a statement on the Supreme Court decision not to take the Cooper/Miller case.

Courtney Mabeus is filling in as vice chairwoman of the Young Members Committee.

Forum featuring members of the original Washington Senators baseball team is June 30.

July 9 is the annual Club picnic in Layhill Park in Wheaton.

Book and Author Committee's upcoming events include Bob Merry; the author of Shock Waves; John Irving; and Ken Walsh.

The board agreed to suspend its monthly meeting in August.

The next meeting was set for July 27.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.