

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB**  
**March 20, 2006**  
**Sylvia Smith, Secretary**

Chairman Mark Hamrick called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Present were President Jonathan Salant, Secretary Sylvia Smith and Membership secretary John Donnelly and Governors Joe Anselmo, Alison Bethel, John Gallagher, Maureen Groppe, Gayela Bynum and Lou Priebe and former President Rick Dunham. Also, General manager John Bloom, Membership director Julie Schoo and members Ivan Scott and Jerry Brazda. Absent were Vice president Jerry Zremski, Treasurer Donna Leinwand and Governors Alan Bjerga and Keith Hill.

**Smith moved and the board approved the minutes of the Feb. 13 meeting.**

**Donnelly moved and the board approved the following 36 new members:**

ACTIVE: Barbara Barrett, McClatchy Newspapers correspondent; Mauricio Benavides, publisher, Imagen de Washington; William Brack, photographer, Black Star Publishing; Reinaldo Escobar, editor, Imagen de Washington; Hidenaka Kato, chief correspondent, Nikkei Newspaper; Jinsook Lee, senior correspondent, MBC TV and radio; Herbert Moloney III, president and publisher, Washington Examiner; Alison J. Smith, correspondent, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; Julie Vorman, editor in charge of Washington Equities, Reuters.

ACTIVE UNDER 35: Jennifer Davis, freelance; Jesse Holland, reporter, Associated Press; Patrick Rucker, reporter, American Banker; Geraldine Ryerson-Cruz, reporter, Bloomberg News.

ACTIVE UNDER 30: Benjamin Harper, chief photographer, Medill News Service; Adam Krell, producer/videographer, Auteur Productions Ltd.; Sudeep Reddy, correspondent, Dallas Morning News.

ACTIVE RE-INSTATEMENT: Harry Lee, editor-in-chief, KPI - News Service; Barbara A. Reynolds, Reynolds News Service.

REQUEST FOR ACTIVE STATUS: Steve O'Hearn, freelance/technical editor, McGraw-Hill.

PROVISIONAL UNDER 30: Conrad Chaffee, reporter, Tokyo-Chunichi Shimbun; Nathan Levinson, assistant documents editor, Congressional Quarterly; Lesley Lopez, production assistant, STF Productions; Diana Nolan, production assistant, STF Productions; Meredith Stanton, editorial assistant, The Magazine Group.

AFFILIATE: Karen Matusic, media relations representative, American Petroleum Institute.

AFFILIATE NON-RESIDENT: Susan Sherwood, Hershey, Pa., director of special projects, Pennsylvania Public Television Network.

AFFILIATE NON-RESIDENT RE-INSTATEMENT: Ed Hogan-Bassey, Boston, retired freelance writer/author.

STUDENT: John Brian Pallasigue, Institute of World Politics.

ASSOCIATE: Jane Blume, director of public relations and publications, International Association of Fire Fighters; John Lenczowski, president/founder, Institute of World Politics; Tony Likins, vice president of external affairs/communications, Institute of World Politics; Frank A. Orban, executive vice president, Institute of World Politics; Linda Strating, director of student recruitment/marketing, Institute of World Politics; Jeffrey A. Zack, assistant to the general president, International Association of Fire Fighters.

ASSOCIATE UNDER 35: Erin Broekhuysen, communications strategist, John Snow Inc.; Staci Maiers, senior press officer, National Education Association.

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT: Randy L. Eldridge, East Orland, Maine, marketing/production development consultant.

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

Donnelly reported that 194 members have been suspended for non-payment of dues. He said each was sent three letters and was telephoned at least once. He said member Dave Anderson is working on reciprocal agreements with some Latin American journalism clubs and that the questionnaire for potential reciprocal clubs includes an inquiry on their discrimination policies.

The board moved into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and then resumed open session.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Leinwand submitted the following report: After a poor end to the year, the financial situation in the first quarter appears to be improving. Catering bookings, particularly for weddings and bar mitzvahs, are up over last year. Income at both the Reliable Source and the Fourth Estate is up significantly from last year. The year-to-date bookings for the Broadcast Operations Center are \$204,286, which is 12% over budget. Gross profit is nearly \$44,000.

Union employees received their back pay retroactive to Oct. 16, as negotiated in the contract. Bloom had predicted this outcome and had set aside money for this purpose. The actual amount ended up being within the range of what had been set aside. Comptroller Georgetta George said it had no significant impact on the budget.

The committee financial will be given to committee chairs copies at the next committee chairs meeting. One committee has already exceeded its budget, and will discuss it with the chair. Board liaisons should remind their committee chairs to submit invoices as soon as they are received.

The Budget Committee reaffirmed its desire to enforce the House rules regarding bounced checks.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Bloom said the Club's attorney has written a letter to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters about the union's banner display in front of the National Press Building that says "Labor Dispute Shame on National Press Club." The attorney said the dispute is not with the Club but with a contractor whose work ended more than two months ago. The letter demanded

the union remove the banner. Bloom said he is concerned that the Club could lose business if customers think the Club is engaged in a labor dispute.

Bloom distributed a letter from the D.C. Department of Health regarding the city's no-smoking ban. The letter from Rudolf Schreiber, assistant attorney general, and Kenneth Campbell, general counsel, both of the Department of Health, says private clubs are exempt from the provision until Jan. 1, 2007.

Bethel recommended a Q&A to explain the matter to Club members. Groppe said the House Committee voted to work with the Record. Bethel said the issue should be on the agenda of the May general membership meeting. Bloom noted that if the Club does not comply, it will jeopardize the liquor and restaurant licenses. Bethel asked whether the Club would join a letter of protest if one is developed by other private clubs. Salant said we aren't there yet.

Bloom said Leland Schwartz, who has been hired by the NPBuilding to recruit journalism tenants, has asked for the Club's suggestions. He said he referred Schwartz to the Future Task Force. Bloom distributed a letter from Q Press Management, agent for the building owner, regarding pass-through charges and steps the building has taken to reduce energy consumption.

Bloom said he asked the union to trade July 3 for Columbus Day and is expecting a response soon.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Salant distributed a thank you letter from a member who said she had excellent food and service for an event she held in the McClendon Room.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Groppe moved and the board approved the following change in the House Rules:** The member will be charged a fee to cover the cost to the club of the defaulted check. After such suspension, the Board of Governors may consider an application for reinstatement upon payment of all fees owing the Club including the bank charge to the club for each dishonored check and the payment of a reinstatement fee.

Salant raised a concern about selling an author's books if the event is not sponsored by the Book & Author Committee. **Smith moved and the board approved a motion to give Salant discretion to allow book sales at luncheons this year and to ask the House Committee to consider a permanent change in the code of ethics.**

Salant said Congress is considering a national shield law and said the Speakers Committee will invite the two sponsors (Sen. Richard Lugar and Rep. Mike Pence). He asked whether the Club should endorse the legislation. Donnelly said that as individuals, board members do not have to lend their names, but that as an organization, the Club should be in favor of the legislation. **Salant moved and the board approved a motion to authorize Salant to sign a letter drafted by other journalism organizations in support of a national shield law.**

Brazda addressed the board and said what he saw regarding the discussion on the city's no-smoking policy was distressing. He said the board is waiting for the city to act and that half or more of the Club's members would vote to eliminate smoking.

## BOARD AND COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Speakers – The president of Nickelodeon will bring actors. The head of MTV networks is booked.

New media – Has started putting news on the web site. Is trying for a story a week. Will set up a source book for major news events. Will ask members to provide 2-3 areas of interest so they get automatic email if a speaker is scheduled on that topic.

Fourth estate award – The chairman, Dave Hess, had a stroke but is expected to make a full recovery.

Events – On tap are movie nights, karaoke, Kentucky Derby day. The committee wants to resurrect International Night. Is trying to work out discounts for a play at Ford's Theater. Cartoons and Cocktails is Oct. 19. A golf outing is June 26. The Club picnic is July 15 at Cabin John in Bethesda. The committee would like each committee to host a booth or event at the picnic. Softball starts April 27.

Photography – There's a context next month.

Awards – Is gearing up. To volunteer, contact Chairman Mark Schoeff or Groppe.

Scholarships – Is judging.

House – Suggested the web site include information for interns.

Press Freedom – Postcards are at the front desk for distribution. The Club is supporting Jill Carroll and other journalists held in Iraq. A forum on secrecy is scheduled for Sunshine Week. Is discussing an idea to put something on the web site about killed or captured journalists.

Membership – April 18 is a reception for prospective members, focusing on broadcast journalists. Diane Rehm will be the headliner. The initiation fee will be waived all April.

Mentor program – The pairings have been made. Chairwoman Samantha Young is moving to California, so Anselmo and Dunham will take over.

Professional Development -- Math for journalists is April 5. Data Diving on how to read a Form 990 is April 3. Will do a series on economics.

Library – A major fundraiser is May 22, a cookbook and chef event. A minor fundraiser is March 28 with the Distilled Spirits Council.

5 K Run/Walk – Is Sept. 9

Broadcast Task Force – An executive producer and assistant have been identified, and a demonstration has been scheduled.

The next meeting was set for April 24.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm