

**MEETING OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**May 18, 2009**  
**Myron Belkind, Secretary**

Chair Jennifer Sergent called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Present were President Donna Leinwand, Secretary Myron Belkind, Treasurer Keith Hill, Membership Secretary Mark Hamrick, Governors Dipka Bhambhani, Jessica Brady, Shawn Bullard, Gayela Bynum, John Hughes, Jennifer Sergent, Mike Soraghan, Theresa Werner, former presidents Sylvia Smith and Jerry Zremski and David Jones and Nancy Johnson of the Club's auditors, Ribis, Jones & Maresca. Also General Manager Bill McCarren, Director of Membership Jane Middleton, and Archivist Marlene Justsen. Absent were Vice President Alan Bjerga and Governor John Donnelly.

Belkind moved and the Board approved the minutes of the April 20 meeting.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

David A. Jones and Nancy Johnson of Ribis, Jones & Maresca, the Club's independent auditors, presented their annual audit of the National Press Club, as of Dec. 31, 2008, to the Board of Governors and briefed its members on its contents prior to the Board formally voting on the Report at its next meeting in June. The auditors' representatives gave an "unqualified clear opinion" that the accounts were in order and said the Club is moving in the "right direction in generating profits from operations" and is "on the right track in building up reserves." The auditors also expressed their appreciation for the cooperation received from the Club's staff while conducting the audit.

**DRAFT PHOTOGRAPHERS' COPYRIGHT AGREEMENT**

The Board approved a draft agreement covering the relationship between the Club and the volunteer photographers who cover events for the Club's publications and other requirements. The document will next be reviewed by the Club's lawyer prior to presenting it to the photographers. Secretary Belkind, on behalf of Darlene Shields, chair of the Photography Committee, said the expanded number of volunteer photographers were doing excellent professional work and were enthusiastic about taking on assignments covering the Club's activities. Archivist Marlene Justsen, who is coordinating the assignment of the photographers with Darlene Shields, concurred that the arrangements with the volunteer works were working extremely well.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

On the recommendation of Membership Secretary Mark Hamrick, the Board approved the application of 33 members (see list at end of Minutes), retired status for 15 members and a six-month dues waiver for 9 members. The number of new members so far this year is 191. Total members as of the Membership Report to the May Board meeting were 3,464 compared to 3,525 last year.

## **NEW RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS APPROVED WITH TWO CLUBS**

The Board of Governors, on the recommendation of Membership Secretary Mark Hamrick, approved new reciprocal relationships with two Clubs:

- The Athenaeum, a decades-old club with 4,000 members in Pasadena, California, which has three restaurants, overnight accommodations, an athletic center and tennis courts, and
- The Akron, Ohio, Press Club, with 155 members, which holds speaker luncheons, concerts and journalism seminars and provides scholarships to students in journalism and public relations.

## **COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS**

Chairwoman Jennifer Sergeant proposed, and the Board accepted, that in view of the lengthy agenda for this meeting, that the Board's Committee Liaison reports as e-mailed to Secretary Myron Belkind be included in the Minutes for the May 18 meeting rather than having oral presentations by each Board Liaison to the respective committees.

## **HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL SURVEY**

The Board approved a proposal by past president Jerry Zremski, as chair of the NPC Strategic Planning committee, for Prof. Roy Chua of the Harvard Business School to conduct a survey of Club members to help the Club leadership learn about members' professional networks and what they think about the future of the journalism business. President Leinwand will urge Club members to participate through articles in the Wire.

"The results will show us how much our members socialize and share information in their professional lives," she said. "In addition, this survey will give every member the opportunity to say what they think about the traditional news industry – and how it can be rescued from these troubled economic times."

As an incentive for members to take part in the survey, 10 of the participants will be randomly chosen as winners of \$100 gift certificates for use in the Club's restaurants. Harvard will pay all the costs of the survey and incentives.

Professor Chua is assistant professor in the organizational behavior unit at the Harvard Business School. Chua's research draws on social psychology to understand important social processes in business organizations.

## **BOARD APPROVES CHANGES TO NPC CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

The Board of Governors unanimously approved a series of amendments to the Club's Constitution and Bylaws and recommended that the Club membership also approve them. The proposed changes grew out of the Club's first five-year Strategic Plan approved at the General Membership Meeting on May 8.

A key Constitutional amendment provides for the addition of a third Affiliate and Associate board seat in the December 2009 election. The amendments will be discussed and voted upon at a special membership meeting that was subsequently scheduled for Monday, July 13, at 6:30pm.

Many of the other changes relate to updating the wording of the Constitution and Bylaws, including adding the Club's Mission Statement from the new Strategic Plan into the Constitution as the Club's main purpose in Article II and replacing references to the Record with "all other vehicles of commonly used communication" for purposes of notifying members when required including during the annual elections.

The changes were proposed by the Board's Constitution and Bylaws committee comprising of Chairwoman Jennifer Sergent, Secretary Myron Belkind, Associate/Affiliate Member Gayela Bynum and past President Sylvia Smith.

The Board also discussed a motion made by Bynum to provide full voting rights on the Board to the Affiliate/Associate members and full voting rights to Affiliates and Associates in the annual elections. Meeting as a Committee of a Whole, the board, including the two Affiliate/Associates, voted 4-8 against the proposal following a discussion in which several members said that particular proposal should first be considered and proposed by the Constitution and Bylaw Committee so that it can be brought to the full Board and the general membership once the initial amendments are approved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Keith Hill reported that the Club made a profit of \$61,139 in April, the fourth consecutive profitable month of the year. Total profit for the first four months was \$519,000. Hill said that with May and June looking to be profitable, the Club continues to be on target to have \$1 million in reserves by July 1 in advance of anticipated losses in July and August.

## **PRESIDENT TO START MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS NOT ONLINE**

President Leinwand said she would write a monthly newsletter that would be sent to Club members who cannot read the online NPC Wire and no longer would be receiving the Record by mail following publication of its last regular issue on June 1.

## **NUMBERS GROW FOR SATURDAY SERVICE IN FOURTH ESTATE**

The new all-day Saturday operations in the Fourth Estate Restaurant are proving popular, with members turning out for both brunch and dinner in good numbers, President Donna Leinwand reported to the Board of Governors. Last Saturday, on May 16, 44 Club members came for brunch, including about 20 who attended the monthly Books & Brunch group that previously met in the Reliable Source, and 35 came for dinner.

General Manager Bill McCarren said the Saturday numbers were picking up steadily from May 2, the first Saturday that the Fourth Estate was opened for the entire day, when there were 11 members at brunch and six for dinner. The following Saturday had 40 for brunch and 26 dinner. McCarren said that previously the best attendance in the Reliable Source for a Saturday brunch without the aid of Books & Brunch was 19.

Under the new arrangement, the Fourth Estate will be closed on Monday nights, a traditionally slow night, to accommodate dining on Saturday nights, normally a popular night out for restaurants. "So closing on Mondays for dinner and opening on Saturday seems like a great idea so far," he said. "And moving the brunch from the Reliable Source to the Fourth Estate also seems like a great idea.

"After a slow start it seems like the regulars are more accepting of this change as well. This change will increase revenue and reduce losses while giving members new ways to enjoy their Club."

## **FOURTH ESTATE AWARD**

The Board met in executive session to vote on the selection for this year's Fourth Estate Award.

## **NEW BUSINESS: NPC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

The Board approved the Scholarship Committee's recommendation, as presented by Sylvia Smith, to name Viviana Benjumea of Elmhurst, New York, as the 2009 winner of the Club's Ellen Masin Persina Scholarship for Diversity in Journalism. Ms. Benjumea, who hopes to become a foreign correspondent for a major newspaper or TV network, will receive \$5,000 a year for four years toward her university education.

**The Board approved Monday, June 22, as the date for the next BOG meeting.**

**The May 18 meeting was adjourned at 10 pm.**

## **NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS APPROVED**

### **Active**

Ligia Hougland - Terra Networks – Brazil, Correspondent; Hiroshi Ito - The Asahi Shimbun, Political Correspondent; Toshihiko Katsuda - The Asahi Shimbun, Political Correspondent; Bob Keefe - Atlanta Journal Constitution, Washington Correspondent; Hirotsugu Mochizuki - The Asahi Shimbun, Staff Writer; Yusuke Murayama - The Asahi Shimbun, Correspondent; Toshihiko Ogata - The Asahi Shimbun, Political Correspondent; Alisa Parenti - Georgetown School of Continuing Studies, Freelance Adjunct Professor, Journalist; Peter Semler - Merger Market (Financial Times), Washington Bureau Chief

### **Active Under 35**

Bridget Johnson - The Hill/Capitol Hill Publishing Corporation, Web Editor

### **Active Under 30**

Jeannette Kimmel - National Geographic Society, Editorial Business Coordinator; Rachel Oswald – Freelance Journalist

### **Active Non-Resident**

Edwin B. Cohen, Solana Beach, CA - Global HR News Media Group, Editor and Publisher; Jonathan L. Fischer, Philadelphia, PA - The Bulletin, Art Editor; Alberto Villate, Yonkers, NY - El Aguila Del Hudson Valley, CTO Web Master

### **Affiliate**

Joseph P. Cirone - U.S. Navy, The Waterline, Public Affairs Officer, Contributing Editor/Writer; Jonathan Cogan - Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept. of Energy, Press Officer; Douglas R. Hecox - Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration, Acting Associate Administrator, Public Affairs; Thomas H. Newburg - George Mason University, Adjunct Professor, Freelance Journalist; Marsha Ralls - Children's PressLine, CEO and Publisher

### **Affiliate Reinstatement**

Joelle Costello - WAMU 88.5 American University Radio, Manager, Fundraising Projects & Special Events

### **Associate**

Matthew C. Armstrong - MountainRunner.us, Public Diplomacy Blogger; Riki Ellison - Missile Defense, Advocacy Alliance, Chairman & Founder; Tanya Gupta - World Bank/DC Examiner, Resource Management Officer/Writer; Maureen D. O'Connor - National Association of Manufacturers; Deborah S. Sigmund - Innocents at Risk, CEO, Founder

### **Associate Non-Resident**

Ged Kenslea, N. Hollywood, CA - AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Communications Director, Contributing Editor; Howard "Mac" Thomson, Jackson, TN - The Jackson Sun, Construction, Contributing Columnist, Businessman

### **Associate Under 35**

Tina Musoke – Africare, Media Relations Manager

### **Building Tenant**

Brandon L. Fried - The Airforwarders Association, Executive Director

### **Student**

Jiitu Abraham - University of Maryland; Sara Beladi - UC Washington Center/NBC Universal, Student/Intern

## **BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Photography and International Correspondents:** A large number of RSVPs are being received for a double event on Monday, June 1: the opening by Irish Ambassador Michael Collins of a photo exhibit, co-sponsored by the Photography and International Correspondents' Committees, on "Faces of South Asia," featuring photography by NPC member Michael Foley, June 1-12, and the annual International Membership Recruitment Reception in the evening.

**Photography:** Clay Blackmore, a leading portrait photographer, will make a presentation on "How to Photograph Everyone". Canon is arranging the presentation on the basis that there will be at least 100 attendees, and it is anticipated that the number will be exceeded to such an extent that it is hoped the event will be moved to the ballroom. Club member Michael Foley will be the speaker at the committee's regular meeting on June 10, when he will discuss how he was able to capture the images for his "Faces of South Asia" exhibit in the Lobby.

**International Correspondents Committee:** Efforts are being made to ensure a large turnout for the annual international membership recruitment reception on June 1. It is anticipated that Sen. Richard Lugar, the ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will give a special briefing to the committee sometime in June. It will be a Club-member-only event in the McClendon room.

**5K:** The committee is looking for more sponsors. So far, only the National Beer Wholesalers on board.

**NPC Picnic:** Plans are well advanced for the annual NPC Picnic on Saturday, June 13, under the leadership of Jonathan Salant.

### **Freedom of the Press Committee:**

- 1) President Leinwand issued a statement urging President Obama to make public photographs that are said to depict abusive treatment of detainees in U.S. government custody.
- 2) The National Press Club Press Freedom Committee continued its new series of monthly classes designed to help reporters understand the laws that affect their access to information, as well as their rights as journalists.

Anything the board can do to help publicize these classes would be appreciated. The classes are being publicized on the Web site, in the Wire, on Facebook and generally in the "What's happening at the Club" updates.

### **Young Members:**

Agenda for May 28 meeting:

- Wine and Cheese discussion as meeting primer
- Discussion of non-Club partnerships

- Adult Literacy Awareness Campaign

### **Professional Development:**

Here are some highlights from the Professional Development Committee:

- We had more than 60 people attend the May 2 Journalism Survival Bootcamp. Event went well, spurred some membership applications, and served as a launching point for some spin-off training events on resumes and multimedia.
- We are working with staff to develop a short survey form for participants of all NPC training events to fill out at an event's conclusion
- We are working with staff to have a more thorough promotional plan (i.e. checklist) for all training events since they are open to the public
- PD member Betty Plummer will be contacting the Broadcast committee as a liaison to help nail down some more TV trainers and launch more TV training classes
- We hope to participate in the picnic but event/activity TBD and still looking for another 1-2 committee volunteers

Other upcoming events:

- Covering Health Statistics (with Dartmouth experts) - 1/2 day June 24
- Tentative class on book proposals and agents - June 25
- PD member and former Fortune magazine editor will host a networking workshop, date TBD
- NPC member and Governing magazine editor Mark Stencil will hold an Advanced Social Networking Class for Source Building class, date TBD
- PD Vice Chair Wes Pippert working on a resume class w/ NPC member Chuck Lewis

**Publications Committee:** The final issue of the Record will be dated June 1, 2009 and will include the June Calendar of Events. A special issue will be published with the proposed amendments to the NPC Constitution and Bylaws.

### **Speakers Committee:**

Upcoming Luncheon Speakers:

May 21: Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood

May 28: Mary Tyler Moore, actress and International Chairman for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

May 29: Education Secretary Anne Duncan

June 1: Former Vice President Dick Cheney at the Gerald R. Ford Foundation Journalism Prize Awards

June 8: David Simon, author and producer, create of the HBO series "The Wire"

June 11: General James Conway, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps

June 25: Stan Kasten, president, the Washington Nationals

June 26: Robert Herz, Financial Accounting Standards Board

July 1: Wayne Clough, Secretary, the Smithsonian Institution  
July 8: Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff  
**Book and Author:** The following events have been scheduled:

May 21: Elizabeth Edwards, *Resilience*  
June 3, Michael Connelly, *The Scarecrow*  
June 16, David Ignatius, *The Increment*  
June 18, Joe Scarborough, *The Last Best Hope: Restoring Conservatism and America's promise*  
July 8: *Sen. Jim DeMint, Saving Freedom: We can Stop America's Slide into Socialism*  
July 9: Burt Solomon, *FDR v. The Constitution*

### **Awards Committee:**

Judges can start picking up their packets of entries as of today, Monday, May 18. Larry Lipman is expecting to make a report to the Board for the June meeting.

We have about 120 entries (not counting the online entries), which is apparently lower than normal. This may be from the delay in getting the brochure out. Larry suggests we make a point next year to get the word out earlier.

### **Events:**

In addition to the monthly “dinner and movie” and “business breakfast speakers” events, the committee is sponsoring a private screening and discussion with the director and start of “The Stoning of Soraya” starting at 7pm, June 17. The film recounts the true story of the execution of a 35-year-old mother in Iran who in 1986 was accused of infidelity under Islamic sharia law and who was stoned to death in front of her children.

### **Saturday Books & Brunch**

More than 20 members attended the first meeting of the Books & Brunch in its new Saturday venue of the Fourth Estate Restaurant on May 16, when Edward Luce, the Washington bureau chief of the Financial Times, was present for a discussion of his book, “In Spite of the Gods: The Strange Rise of Modern India”. The next meeting will be on June 20, when “The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao” by Junot Diaz, winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award, will be discussed.