

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

May 22, 2006

Sylvia Smith, Secretary

Chairman Mark Hamrick called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Present were President Jonathan Salant, Vice President Jerry Zremski, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Treasurer Donna Leinwand and Membership secretary John Donnelly and Governors Joe Anselmo, John Gallagher, Alan Bjerga, Maureen Groppe, Keith Hill, Gayela Bynum and Lou Priebe and former President Rick Dunham. Also, Awards Committee chairman Mark Schoeff, General manager John Bloom and Membership director Julie Schoo. Governor Alison Bethel was absent.

Smith moved and the board approved the minutes of the April 24 meeting.

Donnelly moved and the board approved the following 43 new members:

ACTIVE: Waleed Al-Moajil, production manager, Associated Press Television; Bruno Arena, radio/TV freelancer; John Boyd, associate editor, Traffic World Magazine; Phil Chordas, audio supervisor/narrator freelancer; Paul Eckert, correspondent, Reuters; Richard S. Gentilo, photographer/producer, Associated Press; Howard Goller, editor, Reuters; James W. Gorman, cameraman, Associated Press; Christian Kettlewell, cameraman, Associated Press; Gilbert LeGras, correspondent, Reuters; Jennifer Lubell, reporter, Crain Communications; Vivienne McRoberts, editor-in-chief, The Washington Examiner; Marylinn C. Minor, senior coordinating producer, Black Entertainment Television; Alexander X. Mooney, executive director, National Journalism Center; Sean Reilly, correspondent, Mobile Press-Register; Joe Rothstein, editor, USPoliticsToday.com; Diane Schwartz, publisher, Access Intelligence; Michael Verespej, reporter, Crain Communications.

ACTIVE UNDER 35: Tracy Johnke, reporter/producer, Associated Press; Jose Luis Barrera, satellite coordinator, Associated Press.

ACTIVE UNDER 30: Patrick Fogarty, online video, Associated Press Broadcast News Center; Elizabeth George, reporter, Congressional Quarterly; Magda Johanna Gomez, correspondent, Imagen Magazine; Alex Kaplun, reporter, Environment & Energy Publishing.

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT: Kevin B. Dennehy, Denver, editor, Recon Magazine; Laurie Nadel, Long Beach, N.Y., freelancer.

ACTIVE REINSTATEMENT: Basil Talbott, reporter, Congress Daily; Richard Tomkins, correspondent, United Press International.

ACTIVE UNDER 35 REINSTATEMENT: Lisa Friedman, bureau chief, L.A. Daily News.

PROVISIONAL UNDER 30: Jean Chemnick, reporter, Congressional Quarterly; Lisa Lambert, news assistant, Reuters.

AFFILIATE: Esther Felices, information counselor, Embassy of Spain; Nina Henderson Moore, executive vice president, Black Entertainment Television.

AFFILIATE UNDER 35: William Hart, communications manager/web producer, Radio Free Asia; David Hines, information systems technician, Stars and Stripes; Cynthia Kopkowski, writer/editor, National Education Association.

AFFILIATE REINSTATEMENT: Meredith Buel, correspondent, Voice of America.

AFFILIATE NON-RESIDENT REINSTATEMENT: Robert H. Williams, Newport News, Va., contributing writer, National Defense Magazine.

ASSOCIATE UNDER 35: Bethanie Swendsen, correspondent, Family Research Council; Kimberly Wilson, publicist, Georgetown University Press.

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT: Frederick Douglass IV, Baltimore, executive director, Frederick Douglass Organization.

ASSOCIATE REINSTATEMENT: Noel J. Milan, acting director of communications, National Endowment for the Humanities; David R. Palombi, senior vice president of corporate communications, Freddie Mac.

Donnelly moved and the board approved retired dues status for 1 member.

Donnelly said a reception has been scheduled for June 12 for members as a way to encourage them to join committees. He said a letter has been put together to clubs around the country, including some nearby golf clubs, regarding potential reciprocal agreements.

Hamrick said an item of new business would be taken out of order to accommodate Schoeff. Groppe said Schoeff deserves special recognition because he assumed the Awards Committee chairmanship only a few months after joining the Club and because the number of submissions increased about 30 percent. Schoeff answered questions about the nominated winners. **Groppe moved and the board accepted the list with the exception of a proposal for a distinguished service designation.** (List attached.) **Salant moved and the board approved its thanks to the Awards Committee, its chairman and vice chairman for their work.**

Groppe moved and the board approved the awarding of the Feldman Scholarship to Terri Williams, a former Houston Post reporter who teaches high school journalism and wants to go to graduate school so she can teach at the college level.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Leinwand said the broadcast center is doing well, although its income is below budget because it was not open in January as was anticipated in the budget. Leinwand briefed the board on the various bank fees the Club pays. She also reported that there have been two trial runs with a new printer for the Record, and the results were good. She said the new printer would cost the Club \$40,000 a year less than has been paid. Leinwand said \$600,000 has been taken from the rainy day fund to pay down the 4th floor construction project loan and that the remaining amount was converted to a loan with a 7.25 percent interest rate. **Leinwand moved and the board approved an insurance policy with Chubb to cover crime, liability, director and officer insurance and liability to be in effect from May 22, 2006, to May 22, 2007.** She said the amount is 6 percent lower than the previous year.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Bloom said the Club did more than \$1 million in business for the second month in a row. He said the summer looks slim but business will pick up in the fall. He noted that even though membership is flat, use of the facility by members has increased. He said he is concerned about some aspects of the physical plant and is doing repairs and replacements as absolutely needed, including a \$28,000 oven, pending the financial status of the Club. He said the renovation of the Fourth Estate may be deferred until December. He said he signed a contract to stabilize power rates through 2008. He said he is taking bid for the phone

system; the current contract with Press Com expires in July. He said Antoinette Warren will be promoted from evening manager to manager of the Fourth Estate Restaurant, replacing Stratton Davis. Bloom said the Club will be closed July 1 to 4 but be open on Columbus Day.

The board moved into executive session to discuss an award and then resumed open session.

NEW BUSINESS

Zremski briefed the board on the work of the Centennial Task Force, which prompted a discussion about the funding of the documentary. Salant stressed that corporate donations should not be accepted for it. Zremski said the task force is developing a policy that would guide the making of solicitations for donations. Zremski said he favors asking for and accepting donations from media organizations, and Dunham said that must be defined, because many conglomerates own media companies. Priebe asked whether potential outlets for airing the documentary (PBS, History Channel) should be consulted while the documentary is still being developed. Bloom said when the board approved the project, it was insistent that the Club have total control over its content.

Groppe moved and the board approved a motion thanking Stratton Davis for his years of work at the NPC. (Attached)

Hamrick reviewed clips of two prototype radio programs featuring the Club and was congratulated for his work.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Speakers – Upcoming: PBS president, Sen. Hillary Clinton.

New media – Has started running a “journalism gem” on the NPC front page to highlight good journalism by members. Stories can be nominated and will be selected by a committee.

Young Members – Upcoming: Lichtenstein Embassy night, workshop on lifestyle reporting.

Newsmakers – Upcoming: Dean of diplomatic corps and several other ambassadors from Africa; NBA and the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Travel – Civil War battlefield trip June 17; Prague/Poland canceled; Greece/Turkey probably will go; New Orleans is Dec. 7-11. 2007 likely trips are Buenos Aires, India, Malta.

Press Freedom – Has created a link from the NPC web page to the Committee to Protect Journalists web page to highlight kidnapped and killed journalists. The Club signed on to a letter from journalism groups protesting the governor of Arkansas’ refusal to provide access information to a newspaper. Is working on a 40th birthday event for FOIA.

Mentor – Did a questionnaire; will have a writing tips workshop in June.

Professional development -- May 25 TV tips for print journalists, June 5 multi-media story telling.

5K – Dunham asked board members to obtain donations from their employers. He said Honda declined to provide a car this year.

Library – will develop a five-year strategic plan.

Events – Holiday bazaar is Nov. 1.

International Correspondents – about 80 people attended a recruitment reception for international journalists and press attaches. The participants in the Buddy Program will have an exclusive breakfast with the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Softball – Has a 6-2 season so far.

The next meeting is June 19.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

2005 Award winners:

Consumer Journalism (newspapers)

“The Mercury Menace”

Sam Roe and Michael Hawthorne, Chicago Tribune

Consumer Journalism (periodicals)

“New Concerns about Ionizing Air Cleaners” and “Air Cleaners: Some Do Little Cleaning”

Celia Kuperszmid Lehrman and Mari McQueen, Consumer Reports

Consumer Journalism (TV & radio)

TV

“Brains for Sale”

Chris Halsne, Bill Benson, David Weed, KIRO-TV Seattle

Honorable Mention

“Burning Secret”

Scott Cohn and Mark Lagerkvist, CNBC

Radio

Consumer health topics (five weekly segments)

Allison Aubrey, NPR

Washington Correspondence

“Randy ‘Duke’ Cunningham”

Marcus Stern and Jerry Kammer, Copley News Service

Press Criticism (single entry/print & bcst)

Print:

“The Sad Saga of Gary Webb”

Susan Paterno, American Journalism Review

Broadcast: No award

Press Criticism (single entry/books)

No award.

Press Criticism (body of work/print & bcst)

Print

Rachel Smolkin, American Journalism Review

Honorable Mention

Sherry Ricchiardi, American Journalism Review

Broadcast

Howard Kurtz (Reliable Sources), CNN

Honorable Mention

WGBH-TV Beat the Press

Goldstein Regional Reporting

James Carroll, Louisville Courier-Journal

Diplomatic Correspondence (print, broadcast)

Print

“Pipline to Peril”

Cam Simpson, Chicago Tribune

Broadcast

“Security Check: Confronting Today’s Global Threats”

David Brancaccio, KQED

Honorable Mention

“And Justice for Some: The U.S. Battle with the International Criminal Court”

Kathryn Kolbert, NPR

Newsletter Journalism (analytical)

“Overtime Claims Brought by Video Gamers Expose Workplace Issues for Tech Employers”

Michael Triplett, BNA Daily Labor Report

Honorable Mention

“What Salespeople Aren’t Telling You about Annuities”

Amanda Walker, Consumer Reports Money Adviser

Newsletter (exclusive)

“Administration Eyes Sweeping Nuclear Reprocessing Initiative”

Jeff Beattie and George Lussenz, The Energy Daily

Honorable Mention

“Misleading Coding Advice”

Wendy Vogenitz, Decision Health

Environmental Reporting (print)

“Blind Eye”

Debbie Cenziper, Miami Herald

Honorable Mention

“Toxic Legacy”

Staff of The Record (Bergen County New Jersey)

Environmental Reporting (broadcast)

“Melting Point”

CNN staff

Online Journalism (best site)

“Rising from Ruin: Two Towns Rebuild After Katrina”

MSNBC.com

Honorable Mention

“Kevin Sites in the Hotzone”

Yahoo News

Honorable Mention

“The Pineros: Men of the Pines”

Sacramento Bee

Online Journalism (distinguished contribution)

“Fire Alarm”

Staff, Newsday.com

Hume Excellence in Political Journalism

Brody Mullins, Wall Street Journal

Honorable Mention

Jeff Zeleny, Chicago Tribune

Geriatrics

“Discharged and Dishonored”

Chris Adams and Alison Young, Knight-Ridder

Honorable Mention

“Fire Danger and Seniors”

Peter Eisler, USA Today

Humor (single entry)

No award

Humor (body of work)

“My Planet”

Mary Roach, Reader’s Digest

Animal Reporting (print)

“Connecticut Parrot Slaughter”

Ken Dixon, Connecticut Post

Honorable Mention

“A Time to Kill”

Todd Gillman, Dallas Morning News

Animal Reporting (broadcast)

“Pork and Politics”

Mike Rush, WPXI-TV Mobile, Alabama

Photojournalist: Mike Corry

Honorable mention

“Greenies”

Wayne Havrelly, KIRO-TV Seattle

Freedom of the Press

Tom Curley, president and CEO, Associated Press

Akbar Ganji, Iranian journalist

The National Press Club Board of Governors would like to recognize and thank Stratton Davis for his contributions to the Club.

Stratton came to the Club in 1999 to work in the banquet department, where he was a star performer. He was the evening complement to David Deem's management of the daytime banquet operations. After having mastered that part of the Club's operation, Stratton took over the management of the Club's Fourth Estate restaurant in early 2003.

Stratton was instrumental in taking the board's authorization to open the restaurant to the public and making it a successful decision. Since January 2004, sales to non-members account for \$111,229, or 14.86% of the total sales. The year-to-date average in 2006 is 29%.

Additionally, Stratton has been a tremendous organizer of the Club's Book Rap and Author Dinner series. He has been the Club's showman as the Club hosted some of the nation's finest and well-known chefs. His skill at putting together great wines to complement Chef Swenson's preparation of the famous chefs' recipes and orchestrating the service further contributed to the Club's fine dining image.

Day in and day out, Stratton has been the smiling, congenial and professional face on the Club's premier operation.

The Board of Governors is sorry to see Stratton leave but wishes him well in his future endeavors.