

## **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB**

**Nov. 21, 2005**

**Sylvia Smith, Secretary**

Chairwoman Donna Leinwand called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Present were Vice president Jonathan Salant, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Membership secretary John Donnelly and Treasurer Jerry Zremski and Governors Joe Anselmo, Alison Bethel, John Gallagher, Mark Hamrick, Maureen Groppe, and Lou Priebe. Also present were General manager John Bloom and Sarahanne Driggs, director of membership recruitment. President Rick Dunham and Governors Gayela Bynum and Mark Hamrick were absent.

**Smith moved and the board approved adoption of the Oct. 24 minutes. Leinwand abstained.**

**Donnelly moved and the board approved the following 39 members:**

Active: Darrell Delamaide, editor in chief, Newsdesk Media Group; Auram Goldstein, reporter, Bloomberg News; John McLaughlin, president, The McLaughlin Group; Virginia L. Rossiter, film professional; Carla Stea, reporter, The War and Peace Digest; Carlos Verdecia, editor in chief, The Washington Times (Spanish Edition).

Active Under 30: Jessica Brady, assistant editor, National Journal; Pauline J. Chang, reporter, The Christian Post; Daniel W. Reilly, reporter, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel; Kimberly Schwandt, producer, Hearst-Argyle Television.

Active Non-resident: Ana Tereza Conde Pereira, London, associate producer, ABC News; Alan Spence, London, chief executive, Newsdesk Media Group.

Active Reinstatement: Marion McGrath, freelance reporter; Leland Schwartz, media officer, States News Service.

Active non-resident reinstatement: Leslie Kelley, New York City, freelance news line producer.

Provisional Under 30: Thomas Hambrick-Stowe, correspondent, The Yomiuri Shimbun; Mark Hemingway, reporter, Market News International.

Affiliate: Mary Ledwin Bean, writer/editor, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.; Lillian Brown, adjunct professor, Georgetown University; Jonathan A. Buth, public information officer, Fairfax County Health Department.

Affiliate under 35: Joe Stange, executive director, International Center for Journalists.

Affiliate reinstatement: Donald E. Gibbons, publisher, Westport Publishing.

Student: John Daniel Caine, White House fellow; Steven Dorsey, American University undergraduate; Eric Greitens, White House fellow; Jennifer Jacobs White House fellow; Adam J. Martin, American University graduate student; Laurie Zephyrin, White House fellow.

Associate: Beverly G. Hudnut, communications director, Commission on the National Guard; Richard LeSchander, account manager, U.S. Newswire; John D. Morrocco, communications director, Boeing; H. Brooke Stauffer, executive director, National Electrical Contractors Association.

Associate Under 35: Jeannine Ginivan, manager of corporate communications, Nissan North America; Candice Pratsch, assistant managing editor, U.S. Newswire; Angela Stark, editor, U.S. Newswire; Melissa Tarelton, broadcast journalism services coordinator, Leadership Institute; Kristen van de Graff, client services manager, U.S. Newswire; Edward James Walsh, new business consultant, VMS - Integrated Media Intelligence; Heather White, manager/editor, U.S. Newswire.

**Donnelly moved and the board approved retired dues status for 3 members.**

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

**Salant moved that the board direct that the staff produce an annual directory of members and Club information (to be determined) without the list of news sources.**

During discussion, Salant said the list of news sources is becoming less profitable and consumes a large amount of staff time. He said he would like the directory to be refashioned to be a listing of members plus material about the Club such as the Constitution and Bylaws, how to rent a room, information about committees and other material. Smith asked who will determine what that content is. Salant said the 2006 board. Smith said it would make sense for the directory to come out at the beginning of the year, not the end, if it includes information about committees.

**The board approved the motion by voice vote.**

**Salant moved that the Club be closed in 2006 on the Saturday of Washington's birthday weekend (Feb. 19) and the Saturday before Easter (April 16).** During discussion, Salant said the Club is closed on Saturdays during some three-day weekends but not others. Bethel said even then, there are people who use the gym, and she asked whether an arrangement could be made with Washington Sports Club to get passes for the closed weekends. Bloom said he thought that would be possible. **The board approved the motion with opposition from Bethel and Gallagher.**

**Salant moved and the board approved that the board authorize Bloom to negotiate with the union about the prospect of keeping the Club open on Columbus Day, perhaps in trade for closing on July 3.**

Zremski said a 1995 policy on comp space for other groups has become outmoded as a result of revisions made to the budget assumptions. He noted that the 1995 policy called for the presidents of the groups that receive comp space to be NPC members, and it permitted the membership to be transferred from president to president. **Zremski moved and the board approved the repeal of the 1995 policy.**

**Zremski moved and the board approved a resolution that committee chairs shall be provided with monthly statements detailing committee expenses for the month and year to date, effective Jan. 1, 2006.**

Zremski said he has been examining invoices from AAA Graphics and will discuss the findings with Bloom.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Bloom said the board will receive the final 2006 budget proposal at the December meeting.

He said the broadcast operations center on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor is proceeding well with the general contractor 80% completed. He said Nov. 28 is the next milestone with the beginning of installation of studio equipment and new wiring on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor. He said the archives space is relatively complete, and the tentative plan is to install all furniture the last week of December. He said there have been a number of tours, and studio bookings are being made. He said rather than a grand opening, there will be a series of tour days, probably right after mid-February. Bethel asked what would be done about parking or a car service. Bloom said that's up to the entity that books the studio. Salant said he wants a grand opening even if there is a reception on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor. Priebe asked about the status of C-SPAN doing its morning show in the NPC studio the first week it is open and promoting the studio. Bloom said Howard Rothman wants the facility tested first. Zremski said \$100,000 of business is booked already and asked if the studio might do better financially than anticipated. Bloom said he didn't want to speculate. He said the \$100,000 figure refers to April through December 2005, not 2006 bookings.

Bloom said the holiday toy drive would be until Dec. 16. Salant suggested keeping it open until Dec. 17 so that people who come to the Children's Party could bring a donation. Bloom said PBS offered to send Big red Dog to the party.

Bloom reported a \$155,000 donation to the Library for scholarships and educational use.

Bloom said he, Rothman and Bill McCarren met with XM Radio officials to flesh out the arrangements. It is expected that a "best of the Press Club" will start weekly after Jan. 1. Salant asked if XM intends to carry the luncheons. Bloom said if the program is strong enough, they will consider it. Bjerga asked about the status of American Public Radio carrying the luncheons. Bloom said APR wanted the Club to provide feeds and maintain the cost of the feeds, so the talks are still ongoing.

Bloom said the year-to-date income is \$156,000 below budget. Expenses are \$124,000 less than budgeted.

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

#### CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

Leinwand commended Bloom and the staff for a tremendous Fourth Estate Award dinner.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Zremski said the Futures Task Force members did not reach consensus about the position of director of journalism. Salant recommended further action be delayed until the new board is seated in 2006.

## NEW BUSINESS

Salant asked for a sense of the board's wishes regarding co-sponsorship of two journalism conferences in 2006: one by IRE (daylong) in late January on money and politics; and an SPJ regional meeting in April. He said the luncheon for SPJ would not be comped. Leinwand questioned whether there might already be paying customers for those dates. After a brief discussion, she said it appeared the sense of the board was it wants to see what dates are sought for the conferences and whether the rooms are already booked.

Priebe said he and Bethel are exploring an exhibit for Black History Month.

Salant said his inaugural would be Jan. 14, 2006.

## LIAISON AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Young Members – Pub Quiz was successful.

Lawmakers – Has had a few more events.

Book and Author – Book fair went well.

Holiday bazaar – Vendors were disappointed at the turnout; staff was excellent.

Record – Had a training class and produced its first electronic page layout. AAA Graphics has said there will be a significant cost reduction for not having to layout the page.

Travel – Bangkok, NYC, Milan, Shanghai are planned. For a family trip, Cooperstown, N.Y., has been suggested; people would drive their own cars.

The next meeting is Dec. 19.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.