

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
Nov. 26, 2007
Sylvia Smith, Secretary

Chairwoman Maureen Groppe called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Present were President Jerry Zremski, Vice president John Donnelly, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Membership secretary Mark Hamrick and Governors Joe Anselmo, Alan Bjerga, John Gallagher, Keith Hill, Lou Priebe, Theresa Werner and Dipka Bhambhani. Also members Arlen Withers and Ron Baygents, General manager Bill McCarren, Library director Julie Schoo, consultant John Bloom and webmaster Ryan Howell. Absent were Treasurer Donna Leinwand, Governor Gayela Bynum and Jonathan Salant, immediate past president.

Smith moved and the board approved the minutes of the October meeting.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

International Correspondents - Arranged an embassy night at the Ukraine Embassy.

Young Members - Arranged an embassy night at the Finnish Embassy, is sponsoring a holiday reception.

Freedom of the Press - Joined with several groups in a letter urging action on the Presidential Records Act to repeal a 2001 executive order that restricts access to presidential records.

Professional Development - Co-sponsoring with the FEC on a training on the FEC web site; discussion on "Road to the White House;" a panel on covering disasters.

Events - Scheduled a debate among the NPC candidates. This generated a discussion about the committee's preference to keep the names of the questioners secret. Several board members, including Zremki and Bjerga, said the secrecy is contrary to the transparency the Club should promote. Bhambhani said it is the committee chair's choice to keep the identities a secret so the candidates cannot contact the questioners and attempt to exert influence. Zremski asked Bhambhani to convey to the chairs that it is the sense of the board that the secrecy be lifted.

The committee also planned a Christmas party for Dec. 20 and a children's party for Dec. 15.

Broadcast - Had another roundtable on the 08 election. Hamrick reported that the committee is concerned that Lawmaker at the Club events are only pad and pen.

Photo - Had a record number of entries in the exhibit. Will hear from a NYT photographer.

Communications and Marketing - Has proposed a job description for a vice president of marketing for the NPC. Zremski noted that hiring staff and creating positions is a role traditionally reserved for management. He said there is no plan to hire a

marketing vice president, although there are discussions about giving such duties to an employee.

Newsmaker - Supreme commander of NATO is scheduled.

Speakers - Several speakers fell through in November, but upcoming are Cardinal McCarrick, the comptroller general, actor Morgan Freeman.

Centennial - Will have "best of" speeches on the web site.

Strategic planning - The first segment of survey results are very encouraging in a lot of ways, but more is needed. It won't be finished until 2008.

House - Received a presentation on the possible expansion of the library.

MEMBERSHIP

Hamrick moved and the board approved the membership applications of the 96 people. (List attached at the end of the minutes.)

Hamrick moved and the board approved retired dues status for 2 members and a six-month dues waiver for 1 member.

NEW BUSINSESS

Schoo explained why the election mailing took so long to arrive in members' mailboxes. She said the mailing was sent "standard," which is actually bulk mail and takes up to 10 business days.

She said the material was taken to the Post office Nov. 13.

Zremski asked whether an email should be sent, especially to non-resident members. Anselmo said one was sent. Zremski said all candidate letters are on the web but are hard to find and asked staff to improve that.

Anselmo moved and the board approved the list of Election Committee members: Jonathan Salant, chair, Rick Dunham, Kate Hunter, Rod Kuckro and Suzanne Struglinski.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

McCarren said October was the best month in the history of the NPC with respect to revenue -- \$1.3 million - in part because the broadcast studio was used for client space. Bhambhani asked if members are spending the same amount as last year; McCarren said no because membership is down, beverage sales are down (which could be a function of parties/events rather than the bar). Bjerga asked about the effect of the DC smoking ban. McCarren said restaurant sales are down slightly but doesn't know how much of that is because of the no-smoking law. There was a discussion about the Fourth Estate, and McCarren noted that one benefit of the restaurant is that people who eat there get a sense of how good the NPC food is and then schedule their large parties. He said the restaurants will post a \$240,000 loss for the year, which is less than last year. He said the apportionment of some kitchen and other costs had gotten out of

whack and were being realigned, which caused the lower-than-last-year loss figure.

McCarren said some items will appear in the 2008 budget that are not in this year's budget, including legal fees stemming from the '08 union negotiations, centennial costs will be expensed in '08. He said the final 2008 budget will be presented at the December meeting.

McCarren reported that he and other staff met with the House Committee regarding the proposed expansion of the library and the reconfiguring of the 13th floor space. He asked Withers to report. Withers said the initial reaction to any change was negative, but after he presentation and some questions, there was a unanimous vote of approval for the concept. He said the committee wanted to know the cost, what would happen to the computers and reading facilities. He said the committee was satisfied with the answers or is confident that staff is on track to get the answers. Bloom said the financial prospects are good for converting the existing library space to meeting rooms and moving the library functions to the 4th floor. He said the meeting space could generate \$500,000 to \$750,000 a year, with 40% as profit. He said the cost would be about \$841,000, with contributions from the building, the NPC capital fund, a bank loan and a request for funding from the Friedheim bequest.

McCarren said the existing accounting space would be used for a recording studio for clients and for the XM show, work space for the XM show, the webmaster's and IT staff member's desks and engineers.

Smith moved and the board approved moving into the Committee of the Whole.

Zremski moved and the committee recommended approval of a motion to authorize McCarren to finalize lease agreement for suite 499 (for the accounting operations.)

Smith moved dissolution of the Committee of the Whole, the board agreed, and the board approved the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole.

Groppe asked about the timeline for the library project. Zremski said more vetting is needed and that he had set up a meeting with Owls and former presidents on Dec. 4. He said he has received feedback from four or five ex-presidents who are opposed to the idea because of the symbolism of having the library on the 13th floor and the first thing people see when they enter the Club. Zremski said the meeting would be the first of several. He said it is important not to let any one group

sway the day and that the board has to take into account what is best for the Club.

Priebe said the library does not function as it did 30 years ago. Bjerga said the idea should be publicized. Zremski said the meeting with ex-presidents and Owls is important because they have a lot invested in the organization. Bjerga said the process should be transparent and the board should stress how the project benefits members. Donnelly asked about the computers. McCarren said there's flexibility, but one idea is to move them to the 14th floor alcove so they are available whenever the Club is open, not just when the library is open. He said the reading area could be replicated in the Truman Lounge more comfortably provide lighting is good and newspapers/magazines are made available. Hill noted that the member base is not large enough, so the finances must be made up in other areas. He said that is something to keep in mind as the NPC implements new programs. Werner said if the project could keep dues from going up, that would be a good argument. Smith said the smart card technology issue should be revisited for the 14th floor, especially if the computers will be located there. Zremski noted that the NPC serves an industry that is in transition, so we have to be interested in any idea that generates revenue. But he said it's not as easy a call as the broadcast studio. He said he has some small hesitation and wants to continue talking to members. McCarren said that when the Club is busy, business is turned away. Groppe asked about the time issue. McCarren said the process is continuing, including a meeting with the Capital Improvements Committee, but the board should make a decision as soon as it is comfortable. He reminded the board that the NPC posted a \$500,000 loss last year and does not have substantial reserves. There was discussion about the timing and member notification. Bloom said an ideal time sequence, if the project is approved, would be to move accounting to its new space by the end of March, move the library to its new space by the end of June, renovate the 13th floor space in the summer slow months and have it available for use in the fall. Zremski said he favors scheduling a meeting for all members in December, then bringing a possible proposal to the December budget and board meetings. He said he's somewhat uncomfortable with this board having discussed and vetted the idea and then turning it over to a new board.

McCarren said the webmaster would like to build a better online membership directory and is working on details. McCarren asked whether a paper directory is needed; it costs \$30,000 to print and mail. Smith asked about a publish-on-demand option. After discussion, the board informally decided not to make any changes until seeing how well an improved online directory works.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Zremski said the Book Fair netted \$17,000, about the same as 2006. He said the 5K netted \$24,700, and the Fourth Estate Award dinner lost \$2,500. He said he thinks there's a better way to do the Fourth Estate Award dinner: as a fund-raiser for the library. He said the NPC expects the library to raise enough money to pay its expenses next year, and this is an appealing way. He said there were only 64 paid tickets to this year's dinner, but that with a concerted effort, far more could be sold. He said the NPC now pays \$5,000 a year for a table at the Washington Press Foundation dinner and a similar amount to the National Press Foundation's dinner. He said there should be some reciprocity. He said several ex-presidents vehemently oppose the idea, saying it would wreck tradition. Zremski said he does not envision corporations buying tables. He asked board members to think about the idea for later discussion.

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

Zremski discussed the international flags in the foyer and asked McCarren to rotate them, noting that there are about twice as many flags as we have room to display, so the flags should take turns.

The next meeting is Dec. 19.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Applicants approved for membership:

NAME

AFFILIATION

Active

Emel Bayrak

AKSAM Turkish Daily Newspaper
Washington Correspondent

Tove Bjorgaas

Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation
Correspondent

William Wright Bryan III

National Public Radio
Producer

Bill Chappell

National Public Radio
Producer

Charlotte A. DeJean

Associated Press Television
Media Account Manager

Edward F. Donahue	Associated Press Broadcast Anchor
Manelisi Dubase	South African Broadcasting Corporation Washington Bureau Chief
Bhagyashree Garekar	Singapore Straits Times U.S. Correspondent
Bradley J. Garrett	ABC News Terrosrism/Violent Crime Consultant
Pierre Ghanem	MBC US (Al Arabiya) Senior Correspondent
Annette Groth	Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation U.S. Correspondent
Richard L. Harris	National Public Radio Senior Producer
D.C. Hughes	Lemur News Images Photojournalist
Julie Mason	Houston Chronicle White House Correspondent
Cordula Meyer	Der Spiegel Senior Correspondent
David Pitts	Self-Employed Author
Ben Wattenberg	Think Tank TV Moderator/Essayist

**Request for Active
Status**

Rebecca Noah Poynter	Self-Employed Writer
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Active Under 35

Brian Faler	Bloomberg News
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Congressional Reporter

Eric Hand

Nature
Reporter

Dave Michaels

The Dallas Morning News
Correspondent

Hans Nichols

Bloomberg News
Reporter

Charles C. O'Toole

Tax Analysts
Reporter

Kaukab Jhumra Smith

Street Sense
Editor in Chief

Daniel Sturgeon

Tokyo-Chunichi Shimbun
Staff Reporter

Jeff Tollefson

Nature
Reporter

Active Under 30

Jennifer Buske

Media General
Reporter

Katy Byron

CNN
Assignment Editor

John Domen

Metro Networks
Reporter/Anchor

Nadine Elsibai

Bloomberg News
Reporter

Brooke Howell

Freelance
Reporter

Amy McKeever

Mainichi Newspapers, Inc.
Researcher

Aalok Mehta

National Geographic Society

Writer/Editor

Steven Muskat

Dispatch Broadcast Corporation/NBC
Photographer

Daniel Peake

Roll Call
Congressional Floor Manager

Jessica Pearce

Access Intelligence/SatelliteToday.com
News Editor

Manu Raju

The Hill Newspaper
Staff Writer

Joana Suleiman

The Washington Examiner
Assistant Managing Editor

Morgan Weiland

BNA
Reporter

Heather Yamour

Kuwait News Agency
Correspondent

Active Non-Resident

Ralph Reeves III
Raleigh, NC

Metro Magazine, LLC
Publisher

David C. Richardson
Baltimore, MD

Self-Employed
Author and Editor

Active Reinstatement

Nina Easton

Fortune Magazine
Washington Bureau Chief

Hugues Poulin

Canadian Broadcast Corporation
Washington Correspondent

Active Non-Resident Reinstatement

Robert B. Vanasse
New Bedford, MA

Freelance
Writer

Affiliate

Torsten Stiig Jansen

Royal Danish Embassy

Minister Counselor, Head of Information

Kari Mokko

Embassy of Finland
Press Counselor

Edward I. Nelson

U.S. Border Control
Chairman

Charles Young

U.S. Government Accountability Office
Managing Director, Public Affairs

Affiliate Under 35

Tristan Landry

Canadian Embassy
Media Counselor & Spokesperson

Matt Peterson

Federal News Service
Senior Account Executive

Affiliate Non-Resident

Craig E. Nesbit
Warrenville, IL

Exelon Corporation
Director, Nuclear Communications

Affiliate Reinstatement

Karisue Wyson

The Washington Post Writers Group
Executive Sales and Marketing Manager

Affiliate Non-Resident Reinstatement

Philip Mulivor
Cleveland Heights, OH

Retired
Journalist

Associate

Tom Amontree

U.S. Telecom Association
Senior VP, Strategic Communications

Zubin Bamji

The Security Industry Association
Director of Marketing & Membership

Gloria J. Bergquist

Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, Inc.
VP, Communications and Public Affairs

Frank Breeden

Premiere Authors
Executive Vice President

Gregory Scott Collier	Geebo, Inc. CEO
Mark Daley	Paralyzed Veterans of Americas Director of Communications
Kevin J. Donnellan	AARP Chief Communications Officer
Michael Hambrick	National Association of Manufacturers Senior Vice President, Communications
Paul Hassen	National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges Vice President, Public Affairs
Sarah Holt	Alliance for Excellent Education Media Director
Regina Hopper	U.S. Telecom Association Executive Vice President
James Horwitz	PRWRK Media Consultant
Martyn W.C. Howgill	Inhealth Executive Director & Media Spokesperson
Nancy Hughes	American Academy of Physician Assistants VP, Communications & Information Services
Gregory J. King	American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Associate Director, Public Affairs
Sandy Krawitz	ActionAid International USA Director of Communications
Tom McMahon	Qwest Director, Corporate Communications
Kevin P. McVicker	Shirley & Bannister Public Affairs Account Supervisor
Rita R. Mhley	Mhley/Davis & Associates Inc.

President

Luke Popovich
National Mining Association
Vice President, External Communications

Allison Remsen
U.S. Telecom Association
Director of Media Relations

John Sauer
Water Advocates
Communications Director

Catherine Shaw
Mediastudio
President

Amy M. Smith
White Oak Communications
President

Cecilia Snyder
Our Voices Together
Director of Communications

Esther Sternberg
National Institute of Health
Section Chief

Steven Susens
DCI Group
Vice President

D. Brian Zimmer
Coalition for a Secure Driver's License
President

Associate Under 35

Geoffrey M. Basye
DCI Group
Director

Lauren Clark
MicroVest Capital Management, LLC
Communications Manager

Christine Cube
PR Newswire
Mid-Atlantic Media Relations Representative

Andrea Keller Helsel
National Parks Conservation Association
Senior Director of Media Relations

Emily Lampkin
DCI Group

Vice President

James Loftus
DCI Group
Senior Account Executive

Hillary Maxwell
DCI Group
Account Executive

Nicole Philbin
DCI Group
Account Executive

William Riggs
DCI Group
Senior Account Manager

Miriam Warren
DCI Group
Senior Account Manager

Jennifer Watts
Electric Drive Transportation Association
Manager, Marketing and Communications

Associate Non-Resident

Veronique B. Koken
Oldsmar, FL
Leonardo Reviews
Reviewer

James McNamara
New York, NY
International Longshoremen's Association
Director of Public Relations

Atesh Sonneborn
Davidsonville, MD
Harper Collins
Author

Associate Reinstatement

Patrick S. Korten
Knights of Columbus
Vice President of Communications