

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB  
OCT. 18, 2004  
Sylvia Smith, Secretary

Chairman John Donnelly called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Present were Vice President Rick Dunham, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Treasurer Jonathan Salant, Vice chairwoman Donna Leinwand and Governors Jerry Bastarache, Gayela Bynum, John Gallagher and Mark Hamrick and General manager John Bloom, Membership director Julie Schoo and Director of member recruitment Sarahanne Driggs. Also present were Club attorneys Joe D'Amato and Ray Baldwin. Absent were President Sheila Cherry, Membership secretary Jerry Zremski and Governors Jack Cushman and Alison Bethel.

The board moved into executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters and then resumed open session.

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

In Zremski's absence, Donnelly moved and the Board approved the following 34 applications:

##### Active

Sally Ruth Bourrie, Freelance; Geoff S. Fein, senior writer, Exchange Monitor Publications;

Roger LaBrucherie, photo journalist, Imagenes Press; Robert Moore, reporter, Washington Regulatory Reporting Group; Kenneth A. Paulson, editor, USA TODAY/Gannett Co.; Jerry D. Spangler, bureau chief, Deseret Morning News.

##### Active under 34

Brigette Langmade, correspondent, Cox Broadcasting Washington Bureau; Eugene Low, correspondent, Singapore Press Holdings.

##### Active under 30

Stephanie I. Cohen, reporter, CBS Marketwatch; Andrea R. Mihailescu, American University

##### Active non-resident

Yee Man Joyce Nip, assistant professor, Hong Kong Baptist University; Akintola Olaniyan, fellow, National Endowment for Democracy; Michael Parks, University of Southern California.

Provisional under 34

Rachael Storey, documentary film producer, Urban Ink Productions.

Provisional under 30

Aya Batrawy, correspondent, Kuwait News Agency.

Active re-instatement

Cynthia Ramsay, Freelance.

Graduate student

Mohammed Basheer, University of Maryland; Christine Koh, Northwestern University.

Affiliate

Yupin Bae, research analyst, Pinkerton Computer Consultants; Penny Cockerell, media specialist, Joint Task Force-Armed Forces Inaugural Co.

Affiliate under 34

Joe Hackett, press officer, Embassy of Ireland.

Affiliate non-resident

Mark Monday, senior information specialist, Titan Systems Corp.

Associate

Tanya Callaway, self-employed, First Touch Communications, Inc.; Allen Carrier, senior director public affairs, Pfizer Inc.; Geri Hansen, managing director, Hansen Holdmann Foundation; Sharon Jacobs, strategic accounts manager, PR Newswire; Scott Jensen, news manager, Ford Motor Co.; Edward I. Lewis, public affairs manager, Ford Motor Co.; Bonnie M. Limbach, senior VP for public affairs and communication, The Society of the Plastics Industry.

Associate under 34

Kevin M. Goldberg, partner, Cohn and Marks LLP; Robert Moran, manager, product public relations,

Mercedes-Benz USA; Lucie Morillon, Washington representative, Reporters without Borders.

Associate under 30

Courtney B. Mabeus, reporter, Center for Responsive Politics.

Associate non-resident

Deborah L. Dodson, director of tourism, Talbot County Government

Total members as of September 2004: 3,759. Total as of September 2003:3,821

Donnelly moved and the Board approved retired dues status for one and a six-month dues waiver for one member.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Donnelly said he received a nice letter from Ken Jost, president of the D.C. chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, thanking the Club for co-sponsoring a forum on the politics of gay marriage.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Salant said the Club's finances are good and that September bookings were strong. He reported that a capped dues increase was approved at the October general membership meeting. He said the Budget Committee is working on the budget and that one thing that will be in the committee's recommendation is money for a film documentary of the Club's first 100 years. (The Board previously approved this project.) He moved and the unanimously Board approved the Budget Committee's recommended approval of the contract with Auteur Productions for the documentary with the provision that the Board must be presented with and vote on any material changes in the contract.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Smith said the Photo Committee hosted a reception for the members' photo exhibit paired with a birthday celebration for Margaret Bourke-White, who would have turned 100 if she were still alive. Held in the Bourke-White Room, the event featured a biographical presentation from a curator at the Phillips Gallery and reminiscences from photographer Max Desfor, who knew Bourke-White.

Dunham said the final accounting is not yet finished for the 5K run-walk. He said a thank you reception for donors, volunteers, sponsors and the Board will be scheduled.

Dunham said the Travel Committee has been approached about pairing with the Civil War Battlefield Historical Association to offer free tours and, in exchange, the Club would give the organization free space for a program(s).

Bynum said the holiday bazaar is Nov. 18 with 14 vendors so far.

Bastarache said the Record staff says thank you for new computers.

Gallagher said planning for the career expo (Nov. 12) is going well.

Hamrick said the Newsmakers Committee has been prolific, Dunham thanked the committee for filling the void of the dysfunctional Forums and Professional Affairs committees. Salant said he echoes Dunham's comments and said the Newsmakers Committee could offer events in the evening if it wanted to.

Leinwand said the Young Members Committee has a budget proposal for 2005, has scheduled a happy hour for Nov. 9 and conducted a very successful Pub Quiz.

Donnelly said the Freedom of the Press Committee reported that the NPC has signed on to friend of the court brief in which a news organization is appealing to the Supreme Court because the PGA was trying to block access to real-time golf scores. But the court did not take the case. Donnelly also said that in the matter of several reporters recently being cited for contempt of court for refusing to name sources, 4,200 individuals have signed the protest petition and that full-page ads have been prepared for papers willing to run it. The NPC name is on the ad. He said Cherry put a statement on the NPC web page in August. He said the committee is open to doing something else with respect to the Judy Miller, Matt Cooper and other cases if anyone has an idea. He said a press conference co-sponsored with the Committee to Protect Journalists is scheduled for Nov. 18 to give press freedom awards.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Bloom said he is completing a draft of the 2005 budget, which is based on the budget assumptions and suggestions from the Board. He hopes to have it for the Budget Committee at its November meeting. He said September

business is up 45 percent over last year and that October will be strong, although not as strong as September.

Bloom said letters have been sent to the investors in the National Building Corp. with checks for \$5,000. He said the final audit of the partnership will be finished in about a month.

The holiday party is scheduled for Dec. 18.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Donnelly appointed Dunham, Zremski and Gallagher to a task force to recommend principles and standards to guide all professional events when co-sponsoring with outside groups. He noted that the policy the board approved three years ago applied only to Professional Affairs Committee. He said he strongly recommended that the task force seek input from former presidents and others.

Bynum said if attendance at the holiday bazaar is low again this year, she would recommend dropping it as a Club event.

Smith noted that the U.S. presidential inauguration is Jan. 20, and asked whether the Club's annual meeting (Jan. 21) should be moved to Jan. 14.

She also recommended that the Constitution and Bylaws Committee take a hard look at the documents, because there are many sections that do not match actual practice.

Salant noted that the NPC mugs are made in China. Bynum said if they can be procured from a U.S. manufacturer, they should be.

Smith moved and the Board approved the minutes of the September meeting and the October special meeting. Salant abstained from the latter because he was not there.

The next meeting is Nov. 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm