

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB**

October 2, 2009

Myron Belkind, NPC Secretary

President Donna Leinwand called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

More than 40 members attended the meeting on what Leinwand noted was the birth anniversary of Indian independence leader Mohandas K. Gandhi, the apostle of nonviolence, and said she was confident everyone would be "civil and respectful of each other" during the discussions. They were.

The Minutes of the May 8, 2009 General Membership Meeting and the July 13, 2009 Special Membership Meeting related to the approval of changes in the Club's Constitution and Bylaws were approved unanimously.

President's Report

Donna Leinwand, following up her pledge at the May 8, 2009 General Membership Meeting to report back to the membership on the new all-day Saturday operations in the Fourth Estate Restaurant that began at the beginning of May, said the new arrangements were proving successful financially. She said total revenue for the five-month period from the beginning of May through the end of September was \$12,734 for the all-day operations, compared to \$4,834 for the same period last year in the Reliable Source during brunch only. She also reconfirmed that an added benefit of having the Club open through dinner on Saturdays meant that the fitness center and the computer work stations now remain open instead of closing as they previously did at 4pm on Saturdays.

Karrye Braxton asked if specific revenue figures could be given to compare revenue at brunch in the Reliable Source before the change and in the Fourth Estate since May. Leinwand responded that the brunch numbers in the Fourth Estate were definitely better than in the Reliable Source and said that further details could be obtained from Treasurer Keith Hill if desired.

Leinwand also said she had begun a monthly President's Newsletter sent by mail to the less than 300 members who do not receive the Wire or other communication from the Club electronically.

Membership Report

Membership Secretary Mark Hamrick, in a report read on his behalf by Leinwand, said that the “membership story over the past year has been remarkably stable given the dual challenges facing us...of the severe downturn in the economy and the troubles befalling traditional media.”

He said that as of the last Board meeting on Sept. 21, there were 3,497 members, compared to 3,534 a year ago, a decline of 37. Hamrick said that one membership area that is doing better is non-resident memberships, now at 1,036, up 100 from a year ago.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Hill said the Club is on track to end the year with a profit of more than \$1 million, even while taking into account that the Club had a combined loss of \$456,000 for July and August, much less than the budgeted loss of \$560,000 for the two-month period. He said the Club had made a profit each month from January through June, and that September, October and November were all looking positive.

\$1-A-Month Dues Increase Approved for 2010

The General Membership Meeting unanimously approved a \$1-a-month dues increase in all membership categories for 2010 on the recommendation of the Board of Governors.

Treasurer Hill said the increase would enable the Club to keep up with anticipated inflation in the coming year, which he said some economists project could rise to 3 percent, and build up reserves for the Club's "rainy day" fund used to offset the traditional losses in July and August.

No one spoke against the dues increase, which was identical to the increase approved last year for 2009.

Hill also stressed that any members who had financial difficulties meeting the increased dues level could apply to the Board for a temporary hardship waiver of the monthly payments for special circumstances, such as those who have lost their jobs during the current economic cutbacks.

Annual General Membership Meeting Set for January 15, 2010

The Annual General Membership Meeting, when the next president of the NPC will assume office, will be at noon, Friday, January 15, 2010.

The autumn General Membership Meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm.

Myron Belkind, Club Secretary