

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
Oct. 22, 2007
Sylvia Smith, Secretary**

Chairwoman Maureen Groppe called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Present were President Jerry Zremski, Vice president John Donnelly, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Treasurer Donna Leinwand, Membership secretary Mark Hamrick and Governors Joe Anselmo, Alan Bjerga, Keith Hill, Gayela Bynum, Lou Priebe, Theresa Werner and Dipka Bhambhani. Also General manager Bill McCarren and Membership director Saran Driggs. Absent were Governor John Gallagher and Jonathan Salant, immediate past president.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Hamrick moved and the board approved the membership applications of the following 51 people:

Active: Rodrigo Aguilar, Hispanic Communication Holding Group correspondent; Jim Asendio, WAMU-FM news director; Lourdes Fernanadez, Inside Washington Publishers managing editor; Todd Gillman, Dallas Morning News reporter; Mark H. Levine, The Inside Scoop radio/television host; Kevin Mooney, Cybercast News Service investigative reporter; Alec Shreck, Verizon Fios1, video journalist; Bryan P. Sears, Towson Times political editor.

Active Under 35: Yali Friedman, Think Biotech LLC managing editor; Elcin Poyrazlar; Cumhuriyet correspondent; Vanessa Stolarski, Northern Virginia Magazine managing editor.

Active Under 30: Mihaela Biliovski, Jurnalul National Editura Intact Journalist; Stefani Blair, RTNDA managing editor; Derek R. Henkle, Verizon Fios 1 video journalist.

Active Non-Resident: Alan Campbell, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England, freelance journalist; Charles Hustmyre, Baton Rouge, La., freelance journalist; Sylvia L. Strobel, Lancaster, Pa., Pennsylvania Public Television Network, president/general manager.

Active Reinstatement: Kim Dixon, Reuters correspondent; Corriecce Gwynn, Homes of Color Magazine editor-in-chief; John Ibbitson, The Globe and Mail Washington columnist; Robert Miko, Pacific Dialogue editor; Greg Robb, Marketwatch reporter.

Request for Active Status: Joseph M. Tessmen, freelance photo journalist.

Provisional Under 30: Amy Held, WTOP Radio associate editor; Andrew Gorcester, Jiji Press assistant correspondent.

Affiliate: Suzanne Blouin, Social Security Administration public affairs specialist; Susan R. Brennan, U.S. Postal Service senior public relations; Carla Bundy, Royal Netherlands Embassy press officer; Milton Eisenberg, retired author/journalist; Jannicke Jaeger, Embassy of Norway, press counselor; Tyler Marshall, self-employed consultant; Gerald J. McKiennan, U.S. Postal Service manager of media relations; David A. Partenheimer, U.S. Postal Service media relations representative; Mark Saunders, U.S. Postal Service community media

relations representative; Floris van Hovell, Royal Netherlands Embassy counselor for public diplomacy/press; Joanne Veto, U.S. Postal Service senior public relations specialist.

Affiliate Under 35: Olena Kulyk, Embassy of Ukraine press secretary

Affiliate Non-Resident: Erin Medlicott, New York, N.Y., Newspaper National Network senior research analyst.

Student: Scott Maucione, University of Maryland undergraduate - journalism, news editorial; Jake Sherman, George Washington University Hatchet editor-in-chief.

Student Non-Resident: Rebecca Townsend, Jersey City, N.J., University of Missouri-Columbia graduate - journalism.

Associate: Deborah A. Deal, Saint Blackwell & Purple Mountain Ventures president; Catherine Keefe, Travel Industry Association manager of media relations; Alan Kleinfeld, Meetings One Event & Travel Management President; Sheri L. Singer, Singer Communications president; Donald Thorson, retired, federal government legislative assistant.

Associate Under 35: Molly Brogan, National Small Business Association vice president of public affairs; Matthew Hartwig, Renewable Fuels Association communications director; Kate Michael, Greater Washington Sports Alliance manager of communications and public relations

Associate Reinstatement: Emily Tynes, Communications Consortium Media Center executive vice president.

Associate Non-Resident Reinstatement: Jim Burke, Melbourne, Fla., Harris Corp. vice president of corporate communications.

Building Tenant: John Berman, Project Concern International senior director.

Hamrick moved and the board approved retired dues status for 2 members.

BOARD COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

House - Received complaints about no paper towels in the restrooms (now resolved).

International Correspondents -- Nov. 12 panel with this year's Knight International Award Winners - Egyptian blogger Wael Abbas and Burmese investigative reporter May Thingyan Hein.

Book and Author - Book Fair is Nov. 1.

Broadcast - Recruiting event with Bob Edwards went well, and he said he will do something on his XM show regarding the NPC centennial.

Membership - Recruiting event Nov. 5 is targeted at on-line journalists.

Young Members - Scheduled Halloween karaoke, World Series party Oct. 24, and wants to have a debate between the two NPC presidential candidates. This generated discussion among the board, including suggestions that it be a meet-and-greet for all candidates, and that there be a panel that asks questions of the president candidates.

Books and Brunch - Nov. 17 will read Looming Towers

Communications and Marketing - Working on centennial, Book Fair, Fourth Estate Award dinner.

Newsmaker - Panel on America's schools

Speaker - FDA commissioner, House Appropriations Committee chairman, president of Chad are upcoming

Saturday task force - 4 people attended the committee meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT

Leinwand said a 2% dues increase would generate \$32,000, and spreading that amount among all members as a flat dollar increase would produce a \$9.13 increase. She said that reflects a 1.73% increase for actives, 1.15% increase for associates, and a much higher percentage increase for widows (9.4%), retirees and actives under 30 (5.6%). She said it seems unfair to have nearly a 10% increase for some and less than 2% for others. She said she was interested in hearing from Bynum and Priebe, given that it was an affiliate/associate member at the General Membership meeting who objected to the 2% across-the-board increase. Both Bynum and Priebe said they support the 2% increase. Groppe said she supports the 2% but thought the impression was created at the General Membership meeting by Club leadership that the flat dollar amount would be considered, but that if the affiliate/associate representatives were comfortable with the 2%, she was too.

The board moved into the Committee of the Whole. Leinwand moved and the Committee of the Whole approved a 2% dues increase, rounded up to the highest dollar, effective in 2008. The Committee of the Whole dissolved into the board and Leinwand moved and the board accepted the report of the Committee of the Whole.

MEMBERSHIP

Hamrick said Driggs will send letters and forms to members asking them to put a credit or debit card on file so dues can be assessed to those cards on a monthly basis beginning Jan. 15, 2008. Smith asked what board members should tell members who want to pay by check. Hamrick said the members should be referred to the membership department.

GENERAL MANAGER

McCarren said a researcher and archivist have been hired. He said the Club will need 2,300 square feet of space on the 4th floor for accounting and other purposes, not the 3,600 square feet previously indicated. He said September was a strong month for catering and the broadcast center.

McCarren reviewed budget assumptions that were discussed at the Budget Committee. He said the assumptions include removing more NPC financial assistance from the Library so it can function financially more independently. Board members discussed the advisability of eliminating the printed paper directory. There was no motion, but the consensus was that management should explore a cheaper version, and perhaps mail it only to non-resident members, making it available to any member who wants to pick it up at the Club. Members also said they want a better online directory.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Zremski said he had nothing to report that he hadn't already covered in his weekly memos to the board.

OLD BUSINESS

Zremski moved and the board approved the following motion: NPC photographers will continue to be paid at their current rates and under the current policy entering 2008. The board instructs the general manager to work with the Photography Committee to come up with a system for selling photos on the Club's Internet site, with those photos becoming available online no later than April 30, 2008. Six months after the new photo-selling system goes online, the Board will re-evaluate its policy for paying photographers.

NEW BUSINESS

Zremski said his idea of having board members serve as rotating copy editors for the Record was met with some objections. The board discussed various ways of fact-checking the Record and resolved that Zremski should ask the Record staff to advertise for more volunteer copy editors.

Smith announced that she has asked Anselmo to handle the secretary's election duties so as to remove any appearance of conflict. Anselmo briefed the board on various deadlines and said he will inform all candidates.

The next meeting is Nov. 26.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.