

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

**Oct. 23, 2006**

**Sylvia Smith, Secretary**

Chairman Mark Hamrick called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Present were President Jonathan Salant, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Treasurer Donna Leinwand, Membership secretary John Donnelly and Governors Alan Bjerga, Gayela Bynum, John Gallagher, Keith Hill and Lou Priebe and former President Rick Dunham. Also, House manager David King, Membership director Julie Schoo and members Tammy Lytle and Jerry Krell. Vice president Jerry Zremski and Governors Joe Anselmo, Alison Bethel and Maureen Groppe were absent.

### **Smith moved and the board approved the minutes of the Sept. 18 meeting.**

Hamrick asked Krell to brief the board on the status of the documentary for the Club's centennial and the fund-raising for it. Krell played a video that will be used as part of the fund-raising effort that member Tony Culley-Foster is heading. Krell said the centennial task force wants bookends for the promo tape – members introducing the tape and closing it as a segue for the request for underwriting.

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

#### **Donnelly moved and the board approved the membership applications of the following 50 people:**

**ACTIVE:** Larisa Alexandrovna, managing editor, Raw Story Media ; Rafael Crisostomo, photographer, El Pregonero; Armando Guzman, bureau chief, TV Azteca; Toby Harnden, bureau chief, The Daily Telegraph; Chin Wha Kim, Washington correspondent, Ohmy News Co.; Rajeev Poduval, freelance reporter; Laura Soto-Barra, senior librarian, National Public Radio; Stephen Taylor, correspondent, ABC News; Greta Van Susteren, anchor, Fox News; Kerry Young, reporter, Bloomberg News.

**ACTIVE UNDER 35:** Neisa Condemaita, producer, Azteca America TV; Sarah Gilbert, news editor, BBC; Alison Vekshin, reporter, Bloomberg News.

**ACTIVE UNDER 30:** Lauren A. Bigge, staff writer, National Guard Magazine; Cheyenne Hopkins, reporter, Congressional Quarterly; Thaddeus R. Kresse, producer, Washington Post Radio; Christina Larson, managing editor, The Washington Monthly; Laura Robertson, associate producer, CBN News.

**ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT:** Imelda V. Abano, Baguio City, Philippines, freelancer; Joan Harrison, Ontario, Canada; Lee Rizzuto Jr., Stamford, Conn., chairman, Harco Publishing; James Wang, Richardson, Texas, CEO/president, Chinese TV Network/DBA Community TV.

**ACTIVE REINSTATEMENT:** Jonathan Slevin, vice president, Washington Times.

**ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT REINSTATEMENT:** Patricia Brown, San Francisco, senior executive editor, CMP Media; Steven Donahue, Hollywood, Fla., features editor, Language Magazine.

**CHANGE STATUS TO ACTIVE-NON RESIDENT:** Milton Capps, Nashville, Tenn., editor and associate publisher, Nashville Post Co.

**PROVISIONAL UNDER 30:** Andrew Ackerman, reporter, The Bond Buyer; Angelique Ras, anchor, Nexstar Broadcasting/NBC25.

AFFILIATE: Ralph Loglisci Jr., communications director, NCIFAP; Steve Solomon, public affairs officer, National Museum of Health and Medicine; Maeve Walls, first secretary/deputy director, Northern Ireland Bureau; Kim Wright, communications associate, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

AFFILIATE UNDER 35: Yaneth Guillen, executive assistant, National Association of Hispanic Journalists; Matthew Mackowiak, press secretary, Sen. Conrad Burns.

AFFILIATE NON-RESIDENT: Al Kuettner, Gravette, Ark., UPI retired.

AFFILIATE REINSTATEMENT: William Greenwood, correspondent, ABC News (retired).

ASSOCIATE: Carrie Conko, communications director, Mercatus Center, George Mason University; Scott Frank, director of media relations, American Institute of Architects; Sylvia Gimenez, managing editor, NAHRO; Gail Hoffman, vice president, Medialink Worldwide; Annette Larkin, partner, Rational PR; Jean LeMasurier, director, Gorman Health Group; Majorie Taylor, communications manager, Milliman Inc.; Rodrigo Valderrama, communications agent, Long & Foster Commercial Real Estate.

ASSOCIATE UNDER 35: Marlene W. Hall, public relations associate, LMT; Deirdre Willits, account manager, Medialink Worldwide.

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT: Kathleen A. Brannigan, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., vice president of public relations, Greystone Partners; Jeff Johnston, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., president and CEO, Greystone Partners; Jonathan Knowles, San Francisco, director, Autodesk.

ASSOCIATE REINSTATEMENT: Rex A. Runyon, vice president, American Feed Industry Association.

HARVARD NON-RESIDENT REINSTATEMENT: Michael V. Jennings, Winthrop, Maine, president, Financial Analytics Corp.

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

Donnelly reminded the board that initiation fees are waived through Oct. 31. He said a Nov. 2 recruiting reception would focus on newsletter journalists, and people who join as a result of attending that reception would have waived initiation fees.

#### BOARD AND COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

The International Correspondents Committee coordinated Norwegian Embassy Night on Sept 28, very well attended. On Oct 28 the committee is coordinating a bus trip to Monticello (cost \$80). There may be some seats available. The committee is hosting a panel on Nov 13 at 5:30 p.m. on the perils faced by international journalists.

The Library will decide at the next board meeting whether to change the bylaws to increase the board size and designate a spot for an NPC owl. The Library hired Lisa Miller to raise money for the archives, training and research for members.

The Book and Author Committee's event with Myra McPherson sold all the books. Upcoming events include a wine dinner Nov. 6 and the book fair Nov 15.

Travel Committee has a reception at 7 p.m. Nov. 2 to discuss trips to Tunisia, New Orleans, Buenos Aires, Brussels and Malta. More people are needed for the New Orleans trip.

Upcoming trips include: Tunisia Nov. 10-20, is set to go with 15 people signed up and paid. The Tunisian Embassy will hold a reception on Oct. 30 for trip participants and anyone else who would like to attend. New Orleans Dec. 7-11 has 8 people; it needs 10 to go. The cost is \$645 per person, double. Specials available to members of the Press Club: The Homestead is offering a weekday special in November 2006 and March 2007 of 3-nights for \$255 per person double. Weekend stays cost more.

Trips planned for 2007: Buenos Aires, Argentina, Jan. 9-14 (MLK Jr. Birthday weekend). This trip is sold out. If additional people intend to travel, the travel agent will have to arrange different flights which may be more expensive and may not be direct. Brussels: Feb. 14-19 is \$1,385 per person double. The trip includes Ghent and Bruges. Eight people have signed up. Malta, Sicily and Sardinia, but it will probably be very expensive, around \$5,000. Vancouver: June 2-6 with an optional Alaska cruise June 6-13. \$1,285 per person for Vancouver only. Price for the cruise will be determined by cabin preference. India: Sept. 27-Oct. 9; Costa Rica: Nov. 24-30 plus Panama Canal cruise Nov. 30-Dec. 11; Singapore and Hong Kong: Nov. 28-Dec. 6.

Other potential trips include another Civil War Preservation Trust day trip, possibly to Gettysburg, a barge trip in France, a family-oriented national park trip, Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, and Japan.

The holiday bazaar is Nov 1.

The Press Freedom Committee coordinated a statement by Salant calling on Russia to solve the murder of journalists.

The Photo Committee coordinated the annual members' show, which exhibited 147 photos. A program on how Photoshop can get you fired is Oct. 25.

Newsmakers Committee will host panels on gay marriage on Oct. 5 and on whether judges should be political on Oct. 31.

Communications and Marketing Committee has a 3-page document on the use of the broadcast center.

Young Members Committee hosted a panel on women covering war.

New Media Committee's work on the redesign of the web site is being vetted.

Broadcast Task Force will meet with the leadership of the Newsmakers Committee to educate them on what needs to be done to make their events audio friendly.

Centennial Committee agreed the party on April 5, 2008, should follow the 2000 Millennium Party, which used all of the club's rooms, and have 2 bands. The price would be \$50 to \$80 a head. Christina Zamon is putting together a 2008 calendar that will feature key dates in the Club's history and in journalism history. Rather than have a series of luncheon speakers for the centennial, the committee agreed to ask Marvin Kalb to focus "The Kalb Report" on changes in journalism over the last 100 years.

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

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Leinwand moved and the board approved authorizing Bloom to negotiate and finalize the contract to buy out ConnectLive.** Leinwand said the two main reasons for the buyout are improved quality of the product and profit to the Club. She said the cost is \$365,000 to end the contract and assume ownership of the equipment. The equipment would be used as collateral for a bank loan. She said that as a result of the

buyout, the Club would hire a technical person who would also function as the Club's webmaster at a salary/benefit package of about \$86,000. She said the profit from the operation is expected to be \$214,000 in 2007. **Leinwand moved and the board authorized the president and treasurer to sign the contract on behalf of the board after Leinwand emails it to the board for 5 business days of review. Leinwand moved and the board approved giving Bloom the authority to negotiate a loan with BB&T to finance the ConnectLive buyout.**

Leinwand reported that online billing and bill management through Club Essentials is almost ready to go live. She suggested that the launch be limited to board members to work out any kinks.

She said that the proposed 2007 budget reflects a \$2 million shortfall between member income and expenses, which would have to be made up through catering, broadcast center and AV income. She said the budget projects a 12% increase in member costs but not a 12% increase in membership, even with the dues increase. She noted that the budget assumptions includes closing on Saturdays to save \$50,000. She said she suggests having the Club open once a quarter on Saturdays for special events such as the Super Bowl of Chili and when there are memorial services for members. Leinwand noted that the budget assumptions include paying the archives operational costs from the Club budget to reflect the Club's commitment to the archives, which enables us to demonstrate to potential grant funders or others that the Club has a strong commitment to its non-profit arm. Leinwand said as the 2007 budget is being prepared, the board must take a hard look at things that can be cut. She said the Budget Committee would do that in November.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

(Hamrick noted that Bloom is celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.) King said the building renovation is moving along. He said the NPC logo will be put in the entrance along with new flat screen monitors. Smith noted that the color scheme is off-putting and may deter new tenants.

King said the new web page would be online Dec. 1.

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

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Salant said he will meet with the president of the Washington chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association to discuss a joint fundraiser and cosponsoring events. He said he received a request from longtime member Leonard Andrews for an art exhibit that the National Arts Program Foundation would sponsor and provide cash prizes but that the Club would run. Smith suggested submitting the idea to the Events Committee to see if it is interested.

Salant thanked Julie Schoo for her work on the new Club directory. He thanked the library staff for doing research for material for a speech he gave in Syracuse and thanked board members for filling in on various tasks while his wife was ill.

#### NEW BUSINESS

By email, Zremski reported enough people for the work teams for the strategic plan.

The next meeting is Nov. 27. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.