

## General Membership Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2005

- 1) Call to order by President Rick Dunham.
- 2) President's Report: President Dunham thanked the board, past presidents, and other members of the club for the help he received during his year as president.
  - Noted that non-residents reception White House tour successful.
  - Recognized club member Samantha Young's contributions to the club's first mentoring program, which provides one-on-one and group training for young journalists.
  - Recognized contributions by club member Myron Belkind in role on task force on journalism professionals
  - Commented on success of luncheon speaker program this year, with broad mix of speakers from business, politics, government, and entertainment
- 3) General Manager John Bloom gave a summary membership and financial report, copies of which are available from the manager's office. Of note was overall NPC membership, which decreased during the year from 3,759 members to 3,708 members this year. Membership in the active membership stayed roughly the same.
- 4) GM Bloom and audio-visual department director Howard Rothman provided an update on the new fourth floor broadcast operations center:
  - Construction started Sept. 1; expect to be 95 percent completed by mid  
December
  - Conservative estimate: \$1 million in business next year
  - Feedback from prospective customers is positive so far and that it will soon become a profit center.
  - NPC archives will also be opening on Fourth Floor.
- 5) Vice president Jonathan Salant gave the treasurers' report in the absence of Treasurer Jerry Zremski.
- 6) Membership report given by membership secretary John Donnelly.
  - Noted that the club had a "good but not great" year. Current voting membership stands at 1,697. Waiting list for associate members stands at 50.
  - Recognized efforts of the professional affairs committee and the membership committee in recruitment efforts this year. Thanked the staff in the club membership office as well as Suzanne Struglinski and Angela Greiling-Keane for their efforts on the membership committee.
- 7) Dues increase discussion:
  - Comment made that dues membership in the club is significantly less expensive compared to other clubs in the city.
  - Comment made that a dues increase would drive members away, and that companies paying the membership dues of their employees will be more likely to stop.

Instead of dues increase there should be more done to increase membership. President Dunham responded that he sympathizes with this opinion, and that club will probably lose members as result of a dues increase. However, revenues gained would offset losses to club's bottom line.

-Comment made that affiliate members are affected even more by dues increases since they pay more in general.

-Comment made that if dues increase is approved every effort be made to attract more members during the upcoming year.

**VOICE VOTE: MAJORITY PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF DUES INCREASE.**

8) Proposed constitutional changes:

a) Creation of student membership category:

**VOICE VOTE: MAJORITY PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL**

b) Add membership language to cover bloggers:

Membership voted on amendment to change proposal that blogger membership language be covered under the associate membership category as opposed to the affiliate category, which had been the original proposal. Amendment carried, language in proposal was so changed.

New language covering bloggers provides that bloggers who do not qualify as active members but who are otherwise eligible for club membership be eligible to join as associate members.

**VOICE VOTE: MAJORITY PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF NEW LANGUAGE**

c) Giving affiliate-associate board members a board vote

Membership debated issue and provided arguments for and against full voting rights for affiliate-associate board members. After length debate, quorum call was made and was determined that there was absence of quorum (75 active members present) therefore precluding an official vote on the issue. Straw vote was taken, with membership voting 12-9 in favor of the proposal.

Membership agreed to special meeting to vote on the proposal.

## GENERAL QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS:

-Concern raised about competition for broadcast studio with other outlets in the area. GM Bloom said to help mitigate this club will be working with potential competitors such as Belo Broadcasting, and not in competition with them.

-Recommendation by member to conduct a marketing study to find out what the recoverable cost would be if studio fails to take in the business that's anticipated.

-Will the club be responsible for paying a stadium tax on the new baseball stadium every year? YES.

-Will the club provide free tickets for members? NO, but will have a certain number reserved for members' use.

-Concern about declining membership, and recommendation that a marketing effort be created for non-resident members, which has never been done before. Recommendation also made to outfit the club with "smart card" technology as a means of restricting use of the club to members and their guests as well as ability to collect useful data on club activities.