

**MEETING OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**September 21, 2009**  
**Jessica Brady, Acting Secretary**

- Jennifer Sergent called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
  - Board members in attendance: Donna Leinwand, Jennifer Sergent, John Donnelly, Alan Bjerga, Keith Hill, Mark Hamrick, Jessica Brady, Theresa Werner, Mike Soraghan, John Hughes, Shawn Bullard, Sylvia Smith
    - Not attending: Dipka Bhambhani, Gayela Bynum, Myron Belkind
    - Staff: Bill McCarren, Sarahanne Driggs
- Minutes from the July 20 meeting were unanimously approved
- House committee report from David King on a replacement chandelier
  - David presented the House Committee's recommendation of a replacement chandelier for the marble entrance to the club. The committee considered four options, and one an acrylic model. The new fixture, which cost \$9,000 plus \$3,000 for design fees, should be installed by Christmas.
  - Jennifer Sergeant made a motion to adopt the committee's recommendation, which was seconded by Alan Bjerga. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Awards Committee chairman Larry Lipman joined the meeting for a brief period to present what he thinks should be a new definition to determine eligibility for who can enter the Press Club's annual awards contest. Any publicly available news service, Lipman said, should be eligible for consideration for a Press Club award. Examples would be the AARP's news service (where Lipman works), the Kaiser news service and ProPublica.
  - Jennifer Sergeant made a motion to adopt the new language written by Larry on awards eligibility. The motion was seconded by Keith Hill, but withdrawn after it was determined that the language needs to be considered a bit more. The board pledged to take up the issue in the next meeting. Anyone can submit suggestions on the language to Mike, and we will approve something next month.
- Mark Hamrick delivered his membership report.
  - The board approved 48 member applications (see list at end of minutes), bringing the total so far this year to 297, the same number for the same period last year.

- Nine members were given retired status, and four were given a six months dues waiver.
- Committee reports
  - Freedom of the Press
    - NPC actions on press freedom in August and September:
 

NPC President Donna Leinwand applauded the release of the two U.S. journalists held in North Korea and issued a statement opposing the Venezuelan government's latest restrictions on the media.

The Club joined with other media organizations in filing a friend of the court brief to challenge an appellate court ruling that the Texas open meetings law is unconstitutional purportedly because it denies public officials First Amendment rights to conduct state business secretly.

The Club joined in another friend of the court brief supporting the American Civil Liberties Union's suit against the government to obtain photos said to depict abuse of detainees.

And the Club formed part of a group working to craft a compromise version of the reporters' shield bill in the Senate. The Judiciary Committee has yet to mark up the measure. The House passed a companion bill in March.

Held a class in September on legal aspects of credentialing reporters for sporting events. October's class will be on how to gain access to court proceedings and court records.
  - Speakers Committee
    - Upcoming speakers
      - Sept. 28: Ken Burns, Documentary Filmmaker
      - Oct. 5: Mark Shriver, Vice President and Managing Director of U.S. Programs, Save the Children, and Craig Fugate, Director, FEMA
      - Oct. 8: John Potter, Postmaster General
      - Oct. 13 (evening event): Jeff Dunham, comedian
  - Book and Author
    - Upcoming events: Tom Ridge on Sept. 28 and Neil Sheehan on Oct. 7. For the Book Fair on Nov. 17, we have 50 authors confirmed so far. Among them are Chris Matthews, Jenna Bush, Deborah Tannen, Tom Ridge, Kinky Freedman, Leslie Sanchez, Haynes Johnson and David Balz and Isabella Gilles. Ed Barks will be working with Julie as to communications for the event. A list of authors with a brief description will be posted on the Web site. He

will also do a separate link for volunteers to sign up to work at the Book Fair. The Press Club hopes to use members first before going outside to recruit volunteers. The State Department Federal Credit Union has donated \$5000 that will be used for the author reception the night of the Fair. Joe Luchok will be in charge of the volunteers for the Book Fair.

- Newsmakers
  - There were three Newsmaker events in August, and three so far in September.
  - Coming up—Georgia State University football coach on Sept. 23, Rotary International World Peace Fellow Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah on Sept. 25
- History
  - An event honoring the late Walter Cronkite on Sept. 16 was a huge success. The committee is continuing its oral history project, and is now submitting a daily “This Day in Club History” submission to the wire. A fall event on the golden age of journalism is being worked out.
- Professional Development
  - Breaking into Journalism event on Sept. 25, featuring Donna, who will speak to young and aspiring journalists.
  - The Art of Interviewing with Bob Edwards on Sept. 29
  - Covering Congress workshop on Oct. 17
- Awards
  - Larry Lipman’s presentation on eligibility change
- Travel
  - The Travel Committee reports that it is getting a good deal of interest in its trips despite the poor economy. The Malta/Tunisia trip is coming up Nov. 11-22. Fourteen people have paid and others are still considering it. For the MLK Day trip to Madrid, 12 people have already signed up. The committee is still working on Cartagena in February and Egypt and Jordan in March. Other possibilities for 2010 are Turkey, a Bermuda Cruise out of Baltimore, and Budapest/Krakow/Prague.
- Young Members
  - October 3 -- AIDS Walk DC, YM's to coordinate runner registration
  - October 30 -- Halloween event -- details pending (restructuring in progress)
  - November 11 -- Israeli Embassy Night
- 5k
  - The race was on Sept. 13, and was a great success. We had over 700 runners, and should be on par to raise at least as much money as last year.

- We need to figure out when the next race (2010, 2011) will occur, as the race is expected to be moved to the spring.
- House
  - Chandelier update.
- Marketing
  - In talks with Homefront Communications for a new Web site
- Photography Committee
  - The Photography Committee sponsored this year's 10th Annual Members' Photo Exhibit. The photo exhibit went on display in the lobby on Sept. 1, and it will remain until Sept. 30. For this year's exhibit, 46 members submitted 171 excellent photos. A number of members have remarked that the quality of this year's photos is the best in the history of the program. All the exhibit photographers were honored at a very well-attended reception on Sept. 4, during which Donna Leinwand gave remarks. Donna also mentioned that Anne Johnson, photographer Noel St. John's mother, generously contributed funds to purchase Photoshop licenses for the Library's 20 laptops...an extremely valuable gift." And there are now about a half dozen new photos taken by the new Club volunteer photographers on the walls of the corridors following the establishment of a new photo selection committee that is working to update the photos on display at the NPC. The latest photos to be displayed represent the new infusion of photos from our expanding number of photo volunteers. Keep watching the space: there will be more to come!
- International Correspondents Committee
  - We had our biggest ever international event in recent years on Friday evening, Sept. 11, when nearly 300 persons filled the ballroom to attend the screening of the film, "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" about the campaign by Liberian women to end the civil war in their country; to hear a discussion led by the producer and the director and to hear the Liberian national anthem, an aria by Puccini and a song from "The Lion King" sung by a lyric soprano from Nigeria.

Upcoming events:

Oct. 3: We now have enough reservations to proceed with the day trip to Amish Country on Saturday, Oct. 3.

Nov. 2: We will have an event on Afghanistan, featuring Malalai Joya, whom some call "The Bravest Woman in Afghanistan." She was suspended for the rest of her term in the Afghanistan parliament after criticizing the body.
- Books & Brunch
  - The group will meet next at noon Saturday, Sept. 26, at The Fourth Estate restaurant to discuss ""The Worst Hard Time", a history of the 1930s' Dust Bowl survivors by Timothy Egan. It won the National Book Award in 2006.

- Treasurer's report
  - June was a profitable month and our best ever for revenue, but July and August had losses.
  - The club is in better economic shape going into September than in most other end-of-summer periods due to a strong performance at the beginning of the year.
  - We will need to purchase a new grease trap this year.
  - We will vote on our 2010 budget assumptions at the next meeting
  
- President's report
  - 300 club members are receiving a printed and mailed letter from Donna that is much like the now-defunct "Record."
  - The Photo Committee wants to acquire a Pulitzer prize-winning photograph from the Vietnam-era in 1972 for its collection. All board members agreed with the idea.
  - A photo of a Washington policeman with a tagline charging corruption went unnoticed in the members' exhibit but was eventually taken down. The tagline is not libelous, according to Donna's consultation with legal experts.
  - The all-day Saturday service continues to do well at the Fourth Estate. From May 3 to September 12 of this year, the club has done \$11,684.44 in sales. During the same period last year, that total was just \$4,176.56 for brunch service in the Reliable Source.
  
- General Manager's report
  - Bill McCarren went over the 2010 budget assumptions. The board must vote on the assumptions in its October meeting.
  - The issue of a dues increase was debated and voted on. Donna advocated tying dues to the CPI index, and since the rate of inflation is -1.48 percent, she and others argued not to approve a dues increase. Others, however, advocated a small increase in dues for 2010.
  - John Donnelly made a motion to increase dues for all members \$1 per month for 2010. The motion was seconded by John Hughes
    - Voting yes-Jennifer Sergeant, John Donnelly, Alan, Keith, Mark Hamrick, Jessica Brady, John Hughes
    - Voting no-Theresa Werner, Mike Soraghan and Donna Leinwand
  
- New Business
  - Sylvia Smith, who edits the club's online Wire, suggested the club sell ad space. General Manager Bill McCarren was asked to develop a clear policy and present it at the October Board meeting. The proposal should take into account:
    - How many words could these ads have? (Sylvia's suggestion: one price for up to 200 words. 50% more for up to 400 words, and the max is 400 words)

- How many characters in the headline? (Sylvia suggests a maximum of 40-50 characters)
- How many times could it run?
- What price per time?
- Whether there'd be an additional fee for any photo/jpg artwork and, if so, how much?
- Is there any technical problem with having a 4th category?
- Is there a way to ensure that the client submits the material in a way that is compatible with the Wire? (i.e., it should be the text of an email, not an attachment. It can't have fancy fonts, bold and ital. It's just a Plain Jane sort of entry.)
- Should the text look different from the regular Wire items?
- How will each item be labeled so as to be clear it is a paid submission?
- Should the Wire editor edit the material in any way?

McCarren was further asked to recommend to the Board at some future date (not necessarily the Oct meeting) whether display ads in the Wire would be an effective revenue source and, if so, what policies the Board should adopt.

- Old Business
  - Secretary Belkind's proposal for the new election process was approved unanimously. A motion for approval was made by John Hughes, and second by Mike Soraghan.
- The next meeting was scheduled for Oct. 19
- The board adjourned at 9:21 pm.

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## **New Member Applications Approved**

### **Active**

Simon Denyer - Thomson Reuters, Washington Bureau Chief; Ian Gerrard - Federal News Service Inc., CEO; John Gizzi - Human Events, Political Editor; Susan Henderson - AP Television, Regional Manager for the Americas; Yuji Nakaya - Kyodo News, Bureau Chief; Mitchell Potter - Toronto Star, Washington Bureau Chief; Hoin Rhee - MBC TV & Radio, Correspondent; Akihiro Shimada - Tokyo-Chunichi Shimbun, American General Bureau Chief

### **Active Reinstate**

Brian Collins - Source Media, Washington Bureau Chief; Askia Muhammad - National Scene News Bureau, Editor

### **Active Non-Resident**

Janet Key - Northwestern University, Professor of Journalism; Danielle Truszkovsky - Self/Freelance, Journalist

### **Active Non-Resident Reinstate**

Sheilah A. Kast - WYPR 88.1 FM, Host, "Maryland Morning with Sheila Kast"

### **Active 65+**

David S. Lamb - L.A. Times/Author, Retired

**Active Under 35**

Stacy Lynn Kaper - Source Media/American Banker Newspaper, Reporter; Sherouq

Sadeqi - Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Bureau Chief

**Active Under 35 Reinstate**

Tim Starks – CO, Intelligence Reporter/Staff Writer

**Active Under 30**

Maite Fernandez – Freelance Journalist; Renee Lynn Frojo - Atlantic Information Services, Assistant Editor; Raymond K. Gustini -National Football Post, Staff Writer; Tim Mak - The National Post, New Majority LLC, Washington, DC Correspondent; Julia Marsh - Yomiuri Shimbun, Correspondent; Benjamin S. Piven - Yomiuri Shimbun, Reporter; Ayesha Rascoe – Reuters, Energy Reporter; Christopher Jordy Yager - The Hill Newspaper, Staff Writer

**Provisional Non-Resident**

Jackie Spinner - Angel Says: Read, Executive Director

**Provisional Under 30**

Sean Treanor - Die Zeit/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Freelance Reporter, Research Assistant

**Affiliate**

Anthony Calkins - Federal News Service Inc., VP, Sales and Marketing; Lindsey Mask - U.S. House of Representatives - Rep. Howard McKeon, Communications Director; Sedelta Verble - US Office of Personnel Management, Director, Office of Communication & Public Liaison

**Affiliate Non-Resident**

Paul Nash - NashTang & Co., Managing Director/Writer; Kristin Szremski - American Muslims for Palestine, Director of Media & Communications

**Associate**

Clark DeMont - BAE Systems - Electronics, Intelligence & Support, Vice President, Communications; Aaron E. Ellis - American Association of Port Authorities, Communications Director; Damien Enderle - Reznick Group, P.C., National Director, Marketing; Amy Henderson - Smithsonian Institution, National Portrait Gallery, Historian - Writing, Curating; Maimah S. Karmo - Tigerlily Foundation, Executive Director; Kevin Nadolski - Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, Director of Communications

**Associate Reinstate**

Charles Buki - CZB, LLC, Urban Planning Consultant

**Associate Non-Resident**

Anthony B. Gray - Gray Communications Inc., President/CEO; Brooke Harlow - Managed Funds Association, E.V.P., Marketing & Communications

**Associate Under 35**

Mateyo Bonham - XL Associates, Recruiter for OTI; Justin Higginbottom - Tax Foundation, Analyst; Leah Leach – Macfadden, Grants Specialist; Clothilde Le Coz - Reporters Without Borders, Washington Director; Blain Kenneth Rethmeier - American Insurance Association, SVP Public Affairs; Amos Snead - FD Public Affairs, Assistant Vice President/Public Relations

**Building Tenant**

Cleveland Wilson - XL Associates, Contract Specialist