

MINUTES
SPJ Detroit Chapter Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Location: Jewish News, Southfield.

Present: Colleen Clement, Andy Chapelle, Jack Harned, W. Kim Heron, Gloria Olman, David Sachs, Tom Stanton, Walter Middlebrook, Ann Zaniewski and administrator Donna Remer.

Absent: Steve Raphael, Jim Schaefer, Jerome Vaughn and Janet Mendler.

Clement called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Minutes – Stanton

Minutes of the March 10 meeting were presented. Olman motioned for approval, Heron seconded. All voted aye.

Treasurer's report – Olman

Olman reported that the chapter has \$19,745 in the checking account and \$14,253 in the Laurain Scholarship CD.

Budget – Remer

Remer gave an update related to the banquet. Last year, 144 paying attendees accounted for just under \$6,000 in ticket sales. Less than half that amount has arrived this year but ticket sales have been picking up, she said. Entries were up, and the budget appears on target, she noted. Clement suggested we move \$500 from the general fund to the CD scholarship fund, as budgeted. Stanton made the motion, Olman seconded. All voted aye.

Programs – Clement

v Digital TV Report. Middlebrook said the March 31 event went well. About 30 people attended each of two sessions. Better promotion would have helped, he said, but he was pleased overall. Clements thanked Middlebrook for his hard work on the program.

v FOI/SPJ tour. Zaniewski said the event is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the academy room in The News / Free Press building. Clements suggested a Tuesday, May 4, deadline for registration. The cost to participants will be \$10 each.

v Speed pitching. Because of graduation and end-of-the-semester issues, Oakland University officials suggested a September date (rather than May). Zaniewski will give details later.

JOY Banquet – Harned

Remer said finances are shaping up nicely for the April 14 event. Harned went through a list of details and loose ends related to the printed program and table assignments. He shared ideas for promoting attendance. He encouraged board members to use their social networking sites for a media blitz. Pictures of award winners will be taken and posted on the website. Sachs discussed the scholarship awards and the amount of money to be allocated. Board members suggested these amounts: \$2,500 for first, \$500 for second, \$300 for third and \$200 for two honorable mention winners. Harned made the motion, and Heron seconded to confirm the award totals. All voted aye. Related to the SPJ awards, Remer noted that journalists from north central Florida, Chicago and Minnesota judged the contest.

Regional conference – Clement

Raphael and Schaefer, who will be speaking, will represent the chapter at the regional conference in Cleveland. With Stanton bowing out, the chapter can send one more representative, Clement said. No one else expressed immediate interest.

Dexter High School – Olman

The journalists at the high school paper have been facing criticism related to press-rights issues and could use support from the board. Clement asked Olman to draft a letter, and send it to the board for consideration. Chappelle said he's familiar with the paper, that it solid journalistically and that the adviser does a great job. But he suggested that the board's response may be premature if the school board hasn't yet proposed anything.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Stanton

Detroit SPJ Secretary