

MINUTES
SPJ Detroit Chapter Board Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010

Location: Jewish News, Southfield.

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

Absent: Tim Higgins, Jim Schaefer and Jerome Vaughn.

Middlebrook called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Minutes – Harned

Minutes of the Nov. 17 meeting were presented. Olman motioned to approve, Sachs seconded. All voted aye.

Treasurer's report – Olman

Olman said the chapter has \$16,762.95 in its checking account. Stanton motioned to approve, Harned seconded. All voted aye.

Budget report – Remer

Remer said the chapter's budget is on track. Not much money has come in or gone out recently.

Anastasia Laurain – Sachs

Sachs represented the chapter at the funeral of Anastasia Laurain, mother of Larry Laurain, for whom our chapter scholarship fund is named. Laurain family members have been longtime supporters of the chapter. Sachs also sent flowers on behalf of the chapter, and will invite a family representative to attend the annual banquet.

Board vacancy – Middlebrook

Andy Chapelle has resigned, and President Middlebrook will appoint a person to fill the vacancy until the next election. Middlebrook invited board members to send him suggestions.

Annual banquet – Harned

The banquet will be on April 6 at San Marino Hall. Harned expects dinner costs to remain the same. Olman plans to visit the hall this week to iron out details. Board members were asked to send their nominations for the lifetime achievement award to Remer, and to include a brief bio of the nominee. Members discussed, but did not decide, whether a guest speaker should be sought.

Awards contest – Remer

Remer noted that the chapter is having difficulty getting confirmations that chapters in other states will reciprocate with judging. The Florida chapter, which helped last year, is not hosting a contest this year. She will seek direction for regional officials. Remer wondered whether the board wished to raise the entry fee above \$25. Stanton motioned, with Clement seconding, to keep the fee at \$25. All voted aye. This year, the chapter will try accepting electronic submissions for the Journalist of the Year and Young Journalist of the Year awards. Mendler will ask Jane Briggs-Bunting, Ben Burns, Mike Lewis and Jack Kresnak to judge those categories. Remer also

sought input related to categories for online journalism. Heron, Middlebrook and Stanton volunteered.

Programming

v “Show the Love” raised \$1,255 this year and \$2,300 last year, Middlebrook reported. Detroit SPJ co-hosts the event. Six grants have been given so far to journalists in dire financial need.

v “Notable retirees.” Harned visited one of the possible locations, Cass Café in Detroit. February dates are being considered. Harned will be gone in January, so Heron will take the lead. The chapter needs names of honorees and to decide what to give them.

v “Oakland University.” The resume review was a success. Zaniewski will email all who attended and encourage them to participate in the chapter.

Laurain scholarship – Sachs

Sachs would like to try an online entry form this year. Remer will help with that effort.

Other business

v The Michigan Press Association convention will be held Jan. 28-29 in Detroit.

v Sachs raised the issue of SPJ’s national achievement award being named in honor of Helen Thomas, but little discussion took place.

v The next board meeting will be Jan. 5.

Adjournment

Olman motioned to adjourn at 10:02 a.m., with Heron seconding. All voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Stanton

Detroit SPJ Secretary