

**MINUTES**  
**SPJ Detroit Chapter Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 11, 2009**

**Location:** The Jewish News, Southfield.

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

**Absent:** Andy Chapelle, Steve Raphael and Jerome Vaughn.

Clement called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

**Communications – Clement**

Clement shared several items:

- Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame. This year's honorees, Jack Kresnak and Joe Grimm, will be inducted at an April 19 ceremony at Michigan State University.
- Auctioning the News. SPJ National's Legal Defense Fund is seeking donations of editorial cartoons and front pages related to Inauguration Day for an auction that will take place at the national convention.
- SPJ national honors. Clement wondered if we might consider nominating candidates. Olman suggested Jane Briggs-Bunting, journalism director at Michigan State University and long-time First Amendment advocate, for the Distinguished Teaching in Journalism Award.

**Treasurer's report – Olman**

Olman reported a balance of \$16,866 in the checking account. She also noted that the chapter will need to pay \$1.50 tax per meal for this year's JOY banquet.

**Minutes – Zaniewski**

Jan. 14, 2009, meeting. Motion to approve made by Olman, seconded by Sachs. Motion passed.

**Laurain Scholarship – Sachs**

Sachs noted that the deadline is Friday, Feb. 20, and he has only one entry. Various members vowed to make calls and send out emails to encourage applications.

**Annual awards competition – Remer**

The chapter received more entries (341) this year than last year, resulting in a \$300 jump in revenue. Remer noted a rise in participation by individuals. The entries will be judged by chapters in other states.

**SPJ 100 – Clement**

Clement credited Remer with coming up with an idea for honoring the chapter's longtime members in conjunction with SPJ's 100th birthday. Remer proposed recognizing John Sterling (a 60-year member), John Teahen (a 50-year member) and possibly others at the JOY banquet. The board embraced the idea.

**Journalist of the Year (JOY) banquet – Harned**

Harned invited input on several topics, including program design, audio visual presentations and the selection of an emcee. Carolyn Clifford of Channel 7 handled the emcee duties beautifully last year in place of Jane Bowers, who was unavailable but had served in that role previously. Both have done strong jobs, said Harned. As a courtesy, the board decided to ask Bowers first. Mendler urged that phonetic name pronunciations be obtained for all honorees. Harned said he expects table sales to be more difficult this year given economic conditions. Schafer urged the board to cast a wider net. Clement suggested personal invitations be sent to all award finalists and past winners. Zaniewski noted that she heard complaints from some that the event started too late. Members agreed to start it at the same time but to have the doors opened at 5:30 p.m. for those who wish to come early.

**Programs – Clement**

The David Ashenfelter/Shield Law panel discussion will be held Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Detroit Free Press Building. Visitors must enter through the employee entrance. Schaefer, who will moderate, asked for volunteers to help, and several board members offered their assistance. Refreshments and coney dogs will be supplied by the chapter (with cash donations welcome). The event will begin at 7 p.m. Volunteers should arrive at 6:30 p.m.

**Noted in brief**

- Clement and other board members encouraged Zaniewski to attend the SPJ leadership institute.
- Clement suggested the chapter become more visible on Facebook.
- Mendler wondered whether an environmental conference being offered by MSU professors might be worthwhile for our chapter.
- Clement encouraged thought about hosting a minority-related program.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Tom Stanton  
Detroit SPJ Secretary