

**MINUTES**  
**SPJ Detroit Chapter Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 13, 2009**

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

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

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

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

**Minutes – Stanton**

April 8, 2009, meeting. The minutes were amended to reflect that Steve Raphael and Jerome Vaughn were present. Motion to approve as amended by Olman, seconded by Mendler. Motion passed.

**JOY Banquet – Harned**

Harned thought the banquet was the chapter's most successful, and other board members agreed. He would like to discuss ideas for improving it (including more immediate coverage on the website) at the summer retreat. He also felt the chapter should reach out to potential attendees through Twitter, Facebook and other networks. On behalf of the board, Clement thanked Harned and Remer for their hard work. Remer noted that the chapter needs a way to handle cash at the event, and she felt the streamlined awards presentation worked well. Mendler and others applauded Jim Schaefer and M.L. Elrick on their banquet presentation – and congratulated them on winning a Pulitzer Prize.

**Budget – Remer**

Remer would like the board to look at the preliminary budget at the summer retreat. She gave a brief overview: the chapter cleared \$1,800 on the banquet and \$7,700 on the awards contest.

**Treasurer's report – Olman**

Olman reported a balance of \$16,102 in the checking account. Members discussed allocating \$500 for the Laurain Scholarship. Harned motioned in favor of the action, Mendler seconded. Motion passed. The Laurain Scholarship CD will be expiring May 22, and Olman said she has been able to secure a 2.08 percent rate on an 11-month CD. She motioned to renew the CD, Schaefer seconded. Motion passed.

**Annual report – Clement**

Clement filed the report with SPJ National on April 27. Harned said the chapter should put an edited version on its website. At the retreat, Clement will discuss the need for a record review, which the chapter has never conducted.

**SPJ National – Clement**

A student chapter is being established at Western Michigan University with approval by SPJ National. Clement noted two other recent developments: the selection of Las Vegas for the 2010 convention and free SPJ membership extension for out-of-work members.

**Nominations – Zaniewski**

Terms of five board members are expiring this year. Harned, Mendler, Stanton and Zaniewski indicated they would be willing to serve another term. Zaniewski will check with Vaughn to verify that he also is available to serve a second term.

**Programs – Clement**

Members discussed a variety of ideas, including a celebration of Pulitzer winners Schaefer and Elrick (and, possibly, previous winners). Mendler suggested the board consider offering some programs on both the west and east side to encourage attendance. She floated ideas for a news-blooper program and a rev-up-your-resume session. Zaniewski encouraged programs that would appeal to potential new members, particularly college journalists. Clement will look into a “law school for journalists” offering.

**In brief**

v Remer noted that the chapter must publish a newsletter before the board election.

v Mendler reported that Michigan State University’s journalism summit went well; a follow-up has been scheduled for Sept. 11.

v Remer said the board needs to look at the award entry categories this summer with an eye toward expanding online categories.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Tom Stanton

Detroit SPJ Secretary