

## MINUTES

### SPJ Detroit Chapter Board Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2009

**Location :** The Jewish News, Southfield

**Present:** Colleen Clement, W. Kim Heron, Walter Middlebrook, Gloria Olman, Jim Schaefer, Ann Zaniewski, David Sachs, Janet Mendler, Jack Harned, Andy Chapelle, Steve Raphael and Administrator Donna Remer.

**Absent:** Tom Stanton and Jerome Vaughan.

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

**Minutes of September 9 Meeting:** Olman moved approval, Raphael seconded; approved by unanimous vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Submitted by Olman.

**Budget:** Presented by Remer.

#### **Programs:**

- “Law School for Journalists” at WXYZ-TV on October 10 was attended by about 40, including journalists and high school and college students. Marcia McBrien, Michigan Supreme Court public information officer, was praised for its organization and quality of “faculty.” Discussing a suggestion made during the program, the board reached consensus that the chapter might take a leadership role to propose media coverage rules and procedures to courts before future news making trials. It would have to be on an individual case basis, as judges have discretion to make rules for each trial.
- Board agreed that a social program to honor Detroit-based winners of Pulitzer Prizes should be on Friday, December 4. Harned will check availability of proposed venue.
- Middlebrook noted National Association of Black Journalists plans a media mixer, tentatively on November 24. Board agreed that SPJ-Detroit co-sponsorship would be appropriate.
- Middlebrook presented proposal from Communication Research Enterprises (CRE) for scheduling its “Digital Television Report National Tour” in Detroit. Board reaction was favorable; Middlebrook will get more details of the CRE and the program, and explore possible co-sponsorship with a local university.
- Zaniewski presented a proposal from SPJ National’s Generation J Committee urging chapters to host programs for young journalists ages 22-34. A “speed pitching” event was suggested. Various options were discussed; board reaction was positive. Middlebrook, Schaefer and Mendler will follow up on and propose specifics.

- Schaefer noted that Free Press will not offer summer internships next year. Board agreed that opportunities to experience professional newsroom environments are important for future journalists and discussed alternatives that the chapter might initiate. Ideas included sponsoring a student-produced multi-media project, arranging for students to “shadow” SPJ members at their work, and pooling with other journalism groups for activities.

**Website:** Remer presented new chapter website for review. Board agreed it should be posted immediately. Remer will do so and ask SPJ National to link to it from the national website.

It can be modified at any time and should be updated frequently to keep current. Board and members are asked for comments and suggestions. It is online at [www.spjdetroit.org](http://www.spjdetroit.org).

**Banquet:** Board agreed Journalist of the Year banquet should be at San Marino club on Wednesday, April 14, 2010. Harned will make booking at the venue. Date could be changed if desired.

**Contests:** Board agreed competitions should be announced and entries invited in November. Middlebrook will review rules and categories, with special concern for electronic and other new media and possibly for documentary videos. Remer will review possibilities for on-line release of announcements and acceptance of entries.

**Laurain Scholarship:** Sachs and Remer will have rules and solicitation of entries out in November, using electronic communication as feasible.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 10:20. Next board meeting will be November 11 or 12; Clement will survey members for preference.

Respectfully Submitted

Jack Harned

(for Secretary Tom Stanton.)