

MINUTES
SPJ Detroit Chapter Board Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011

Location: Jewish News, Southfield.

Present: W. Kim Heron, Tim Higgins, Walter Middlebrook, Gloria Olman, David Sachs, Tom Stanton and Jerome Vaughn.

Absent: Colleen Clement, Jack Harned, Janet Mendler, Jim Schaefer, Ann Zaniewski and administrator Donna Remer.

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

Minutes – Stanton

Minutes of the Dec. 15 meeting were presented. Olman made a motion to approve; Higgins seconded. All voted aye.

Treasurer’s report – Olman

Olman said the chapter has \$16,288 in the checking account and \$14,814 in the Laurain scholarship fund. Stanton made a motion to approve; Higgins seconded. All voted aye.

Annual contest

The new contest forms are on line. Chicago and Minneapolis journalists have agreed to judge the contest.

Laurain scholarship – Sachs

Scholarship applications were mailed before Christmas. Sachs will invite the Laurain family to attend the annual banquet, where the SPJ scholarships are awarded. Funding levels were discussed. The chapter recently received \$1,000 in memorials to Larry Laurain’s mother. Sachs proposed that half of the money be used for scholarships this year, and \$500 added to the scholarship fund. In addition to the \$500, the chapter has budgeted \$3,500 for scholarship prizes this year. Sachs made a motion to approve; Higgins seconded. All voted aye.

Banquet – Olman

The deposit has been given, and the banquet hall will hold its prices for this year.

Board vacancy – Middlebrook

Middlebrook said the chapter is still looking for someone to fill an opening on the board. Higgins suggested Joe Grimm might be a good option. Middlebrook will pursue the matter.

Lifetime Achievement Award – Middlebrook

Middlebrook will send out an email vote to chapter board members. Nominations are still welcome.

College outreach – Vaughn

Vaughn is pulling together ideas for the next meeting. Higgins suggested connecting with student SPJ chapters.

Communications – Middlebrook

- Renewals: SPJ National is looking for local members to make calls to those who have let their memberships lapse.
- Next meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 8:30 a.m.

Programming

- v The Michigan Press Association conference is being held in Detroit Jan. 28-29. An IRE workshop is being offered.
- v Notable retirees. Middlebrook asked Higgins to connect with Schafer and propose a date for an event honoring notable journalists who have retired in recent years. Olman made a motion to approve; Higgins seconded. All voted aye.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Stanton

Detroit SPJ Secretary