

MINUTES
SPJ Detroit Chapter Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Location: WXYZ-TV, Southfield.

Present: Colleen Clement, Jack Harned, Janet Mendler, Walter Middlebrook, Gloria Olman, Steve Raphael, Tom Stanton and Ann Zaniewski

Absent: Andy Chapelle, W. Kim Heron, David Sachs, Jim Schaefer, Jerome Vaughn and administrator Donna Remer.

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

Minutes

Minutes of the Feb. 17 meeting were presented. Olman motioned to approve them; Raphael seconded. All voted in favor.

Treasurer's report – Olman

Olman noted balances of \$19,610 in checking and \$14,253 in the Laurain (scholarship) CD. The CD is set to expire in April, and the bank will be lowering its interest rate. The consensus among attending members was to renew the certificate through September 2011 and reconsider at that point.

Budget

Remer was out of town, and no budget concerns were raised.

Programs – Clement

v Robin Stone. About 100 people attended the talk, co-hosted by the chapter. Middlebrook said the format was interesting and the venue (the Museum of African American History) was nice. Clement said the chapter should look at using the museum for other events.

v Digital TV Report. Middlebrook will update the board by email about the feasibility of co-hosting the event, which has been set tentatively for the end of March. He was concerned that the costs were rising and a potential sponsor might be dropping.

v Speed pitching. Zaniewski said Oakland University would like to co-host an event that would bring five or six SPJ members to campus to give mini-reviews of students' resumes and clips. She will try to confirm a date.

v Google 101 for Journalists. Google is offering to put on an event for Detroit-area journalists, and will cover refreshment and facility costs. Given numerous upcoming events, board members decided to wait until fall.

v FOI/SPJ tour. A Wednesday, May 12, or Thursday, May 13, date is being considered for the touring SPJ seminar. It will be held at the News/Free Press building at 6:30 p.m.

SPJ convention – Clement

Clements said that Raphael and Stanton will represent the chapter at the SPJ regional in Cleveland in April. Middlebrook felt the board should consider whether it is interested in hosting the regional conference in 2011 or 2012. There was not strong support for doing so.

JOY Banquet – Harned

Harned provided an update on plans for the April 14 banquet. The Cain family and George Cantor will be awarded lifetime achievement awards, and Ben Burns will be honored with the President's Award for 50 years of membership. Detroit council President Charles Pugh is unavailable to speak, and board members discussed other options. Harned felt the event would be fine without a guest speaker. The push now needs to be for ticket sales, he said. The chapter will publicize the event on its website and Facebook page.

Laurain scholarship

The entries are in, and David Sachs will be seeking volunteers to judge. Several members offered their time.

Essay contest – Olman

Clement and Harned volunteered to help Olman judge the high school essay contest. Entries were distributed at the meeting.

Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame

Olman wondered whether members would like to sit together at the April event. Tables of eight are available. An email will be sent out to gauge interest.

Compensation – Mendler

Mendler suggested the board look at increasing the salary of administrator Donna Remer. She noted that Remer had not requested a raise, but that her compensation should be evaluated regularly. Middlebrook agreed. He suggested the issue be considered at a future meeting when more members are present.

Meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Stanton

Detroit SPJ Secretary