

MINUTES
SPJ Detroit Chapter Board
Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Location: Jewish News, Southfield.

Present: Walter Middlebrook, Jack Harned, W. Kim Heron, Janet Mendler, Gloria Olman, David Sachs, Jim Schaefer, and administrator Donna Remer.

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

Minutes – Middlebrook

Minutes of March 30 meeting presented; Olman moved approval; all voted yes.

Treasurer’s Report – Olman

Current balances of chapter’s three accounts:

Checking	\$5,564.40	Earning no interest.
Money Market Account	\$16,000.00	Earning 0.3%
(opened 4/8/11 with \$12,000 transferred from checking account; \$4,000 transferred from checking account 4/22/11.		
Laurain Scholarship Money Market Account:	\$16,957.54;	earning 0.3%
(opened 4/8/11 with \$1,510; Balance of \$14,947.54 in maturing CD transferred 4/22; \$500 transferred from checking account as annual deposit.)		
(Both Money Market accounts allow up to 3 deposits or withdrawals per month.)		

Board voted to implement administrative policy requiring two signatures for expenditures over \$500. Four board members should have signature authority.
(Schaefer moved; Heron seconded; unanimously approved.)

Budget -- Remer

With only a few remaining transactions expected in the 2010-11 budget year, Remer reported final budget to be “on track” as planned and approved.

Administrator’s Compensation – Middlebrook

On recommendation of President, board voted unanimously to increase compensation of Administrator Donna Remer to \$750 per quarter.

New Board Members – Remer

Candidates are needed for three upcoming board vacancies; election should be in June. Following discussion, several board members agreed to contact specific nominees and report on their availability. Administrator Remer will conduct email ballot when candidates are determined. New members will be invited to board's Retreat meeting.

Partnerships and Co-Sponsorships – Sachs

Following discussion, Board agreed chapter should favorably consider cooperation with minority and other journalism organizations for programs and conferences dedicated to professional advancement and objectives. The chapter should not, however, be involved or identified with advocacy projects for non-journalism objectives, and appropriate consideration should be given before such cooperative decisions are made. (The chapter linked to the National American Arab Journalists Association's 2011 Journalism Conference at the Dearborn Hyatt Regency April 29 – May 1.)

Facebook Communications – Remer

Chapter's Facebook Page and Group has become an effective and easy-to-administer means of communication to members and public. Photos from April 6 annual banquet of Excellence in Journalism awards and Journalist of the Year winners have been posted. Most recent weekly report showed 57 "active users," 40 "likes," 7 posts or comments, and 87 visits.

Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame – Mendler - Olman

Chapter was well-represented by several board members at annual induction dinner in East Lansing on April 17.

Board Member Jim Schaefer received two (of six) Wade H McCree Jr. Awards from the Michigan Bar Association (for fostering greater public understanding of the inherent values of our legal and judicial system.) It was the fourth consecutive year he has won this award. This year's were for his reporting projects with Jennifer Dixon and with Kristi Tanner-White and Eric Seals.

Next Meeting – Middlebrook

Board voted to have annual Board Retreat meeting on Saturday morning, June 25 at Harned residence. (1065 Greentree, Bloomfield Township.)

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack Harned

For Tom Stanton, Secretary