

MINUTES
SPJ Detroit Chapter Board Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010

Location: Jewish News, Southfield.

Present: Colleen Clement, Jack Harned, W. Kim Heron, Tim Higgins (future board member), Gloria Olman, David Sachs, Jim Schaefer, Tom Stanton, Jerome Vaughn, Walter Middlebrook, Ann Zaniewski and administrator Donna Remer.

Absent: Andy Chapelle and Janet Mendler.

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

Minutes – Harned

Minutes of the August retreat will be considered at the next meeting.

Treasurer's report – Olman

Olman said the chapter has \$18,975 in its checking account, but not all national convention expenses have been paid. Clement motioned to approve. Schaefer seconded. All voted aye.

Budget report – Remer

Remer presented the updated budget. Olman motioned to approve. Heron seconded. All voted aye.

Election – Remer

The balloting will be done by Oct. 29, but with seven candidates for seven positions the outcome seems certain, said Remer. Board members agreed to proceed with an election of officers.

- President: Clement nominated Middlebrook. Schaefer seconded. All voted aye.
- Vice president: Schaefer suggested Zaniewski. Harned motioned to approve. Vaughn seconded. Zaniewski said she would consider accepting but would like to talk with her employer. Board members decided to go ahead with the vote, contingent on Zaniewski's availability. All voted aye.
- Treasurer: Olman volunteered to serve again. Stanton motioned to approve. Clement seconded. All voted aye.
- Secretary: Schaefer nominated Stanton. Olman seconded. All voted aye.

Committee assignments will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

National conference report

Vaughn, Harned and Remer represented the chapter at the national convention. Vaughn said he was impressed and found many seminars beneficial. Harned said there appeared to be more students and professors participating than working journalists. He found the leadership meeting, with its exchange of ideas, most beneficial. Remer reported that the new regional director is James Pilcher of the Cincinnati Enquirer. The upcoming regional conference will combine two regions and be held in northern Kentucky, April 1-3, 2011. Remer noted that a six-month grace period for dues still exists for unemployed journalists. She shared several ideas that surfaced at the convention: increasing the size of the chapter board to get more people involved; relying on the egos of young reporters to build chapters; and ensuring that every board has a task master. Remer said SPJ National has launched an e-campus, which includes eight online training videos. They are free to members. (Non-members will be able to access them for a fee.) National is also

developing a public-service announcement aimed at recruitment. It will be made available for chapter websites. Vaughn said next year's national conference will be in New Orleans and will be held jointly by SPJ and a digital news association. Stanton motioned to approve the report. Schaefer seconded. All voted aye.

Programming

v "Show the Love." Schaefer would like to see a report on who benefitted from last year's fundraiser, which aimed to help unemployed journalists in financial need. Middlebrook asked members to help sell tickets for the Nov. 23 event at the Lager House. Clement motioned to cosponsor the NABJ event and to donate \$250 to it (with any extra money going to the fund). Sachs seconded. All voted aye.

v "Oakland University event." Zaniewski said that Schaefer will be the guest speaker at the Monday, Nov. 8, student event. Higgins, Vaughn, Remer and Middlebrook volunteered to attend and critique students' resumes.

v "Google 101 for Journalists." The chapter is aiming for a Thursday, Nov. 11, date at Google's Birmingham office. The seminar was tried in Chicago, and journalists there praised it, said Clement. The board discussed charging \$5 for non-members.

v "Notable retirees." Harned proposed a "Booze and Schmooze" event to honor notable journalists who are retiring. Downtown locations – art galleries, inns, etc. – were discussed. Schaefer, Harned and Heron volunteered for the party committee.

v "College outreach." Clement said the board needs to reach out to college students. Many ideas were floated, ranging from panel discussions to ethics poker games. Higgins, Vaughn and Stanton volunteered to serve on the out-reach committee.

Contest update – Remer

Remer is exploring ways to include wire-service entries.

Old business

Sachs noted that George Cantor was inducted posthumously into the Michigan Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, and thanked the board for honoring Cantor earlier this year while he was still alive.

Next meeting – Middlebrook

The date was set for Wednesday, Nov. 17, 8:30 a.m., at the Jewish News.

Annual awards banquet – Harned

Harned will reserve the banquet hall in Troy. The first choice for a date: Thursday, April 14.

Clement honored – Middlebrook

On behalf of the board, Middlebrook presented Clement with a framed photo as a token of appreciation for her two years of service as president.

Adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Stanton

Detroit SPJ Secretary