

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – APRIL 16, 1996 – WASHINGTON DC

Board members attending (with their committee chairmanships):

Bill Ketter, Quincy (Mass.) Patriot Ledger, president
 Bob Giles, Detroit News, vice president
 Sandy Rowe, Portland Oregonian, secretary
 Edward Seaton, Manhattan (Kan.) Mercury, treasurer
 Chris Anderson, Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph
 Gregory Favre, Sacramento (Calif.) Bee
 Gene Foreman, Philadelphia Inquirer
 Tim Gallagher, Ventura (Calif.) County Star - *Future of Newspapers*
 Bob Haiman, The Poynter Institute, St. Petersburg, Fla.
 Karla Garrett Harshaw, Springfield (Ohio) News-Sun
 Jane Healy, Orlando Sentinel
 Deborah Howell, Newhouse News Service, Washington, DC
 Al Johnson, Columbus (Ga.) Ledger-Enquirer
 Ron Martin, Atlanta Journal and Constitution
 Diane McFarlin, Sarasota (Fla.) Herald-Tribune
 Marcia McQuern, Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise
 Tim McGuire, Minneapolis Star Tribune
 Acel Moore, Philadelphia Inquirer - *Nominations*
 Rich Oppel, Austin (Texas) American-Statesman - *Convention Program*
 Bill Woo, St. Louis Post-Dispatch - *Change*

Committee chairs attending:

Mervin Aubespain, Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal - *Human Resources*
 Shelby Coffey, Los Angeles Times - *International*
 Saundra Keyes, Miami Herald - *Education for Journalism*
 Frosty Landon, Roanoke (Va.) Times - *Freedom of Information*
 Linda Lightfoot, Baton Rouge (La.) Advocate - *Press, Bar & Public Affairs*
 Maxine Lynch, Cleveland Plain Dealer - *Minorities*
 Chris Peck, Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review - *Ethics and Values*
 Mike Pride, Concord (N.H.) Monitor - *Small Newspapers*
 Josette Shiner, Washington Times - *The American Editor*
 Lou Ureneck, Portland (Maine) Press Herald - *New Media*
 Julia Wallace, Salem (Ore.) Statesman-Journal - *Literacy*

Vice chairs attending:

Cole Campbell, Virginian-Pilot, Norfolk - *Future of Newspapers*
 Phil Currie, Gannett Co., Inc. - *Small Newspapers*
 Mike Finney, Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald - *Literacy*
 Mike Jacobs, Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald - *Press, Bar and Public Affairs*
 Bob Ritter, Gannett News Service - *International*
 Gil Thelen, Columbia (S.C.) State - *Change*
 Narda Zacchino, Los Angeles Times - *Minorities*

Other attendees:

Gilbert Bailon, Dallas Morning News, Unity president
 Diane Borden, ASNE project director
 Craig Branson, ASNE publications director
 Veronica Jennings, ASNE minority affairs director
 Dick Schmidt, Cohn and Marks, ASNE legal counsel
 Lee Stinnett, ASNE executive director

John Sturm, Newspaper Association of America

Mr. Ketter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The October minutes were approved and the board acted on applications for membership. Actions taken are reflected in the Secretary's report below.

Mr. Ketter said his year as **president** had been "exciting and satisfying." He accumulated 100,000 frequent flier miles, attending all ASNE committee meetings, leading the fact-finding trip to Asia, traveling to Ireland at the invitation of The Freedom Forum, and attending other industry meetings. He also made a number of trips between Boston and Washington.

Among ASNE's legislative achievements was the defeat of the proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution to penalize desecration of the flag. ASNE was instrumental in getting the three votes that defeated the measure in the Senate. Supporters have vowed to reintroduce the measure in the 105th Congress, and ASNE will again be challenged to defend the First Amendment, he said.

The Society joined a coalition opposing the "communications decency law," which would impose government censorship on the Internet. If the measure is upheld in the courts, editors will have less freedom to publish online than they presently enjoy with the printed paper. The standards that apply to publishing on paper ought to be extended to online communication, he said.

Noting the effective work of the 1995-96 ASNE committees, he noted that Mr. Opel became the convention program chair on short notice, then changed jobs and moved to a new city. Subsequently, he had an eye operation. The major committee efforts this year include the Generation X study led by Mr. Gallagher and the development of the Journalism Values Institute under Mr. Peck's Ethics and Values Committee. The Membership Committee's effort, under Mr. George, stopped the decline in ASNE membership.

Newsroom diversity was a major focus during his year, Mr. Ketter said. The annual employment survey indicates a slight gain. While not enough progress is being made, there has been steady growth in newsroom employment over 18 years.

Mr. Ketter said ASNE's new magazine name (The American Editor) and its design were well received.

The ASNE president said he had received excellent support from the Reston staff and also from the ASNE legal counsel. He noted that Mr. Schmidt's partner, Allan Adler, was particularly helpful on the flag measure and he expressed regret that Mr. Adler has taken a new position and will no longer be involved with ASNE.

Mr. Stinnett, in the **executive director's** report, noted that he had signed contracts for the 1998 convention at the J.W. Marriott and for the 2003 convention with the New Orleans Fairmont. Both contracts include advantages for ASNE not included in previous contracts.

Following the resignation of Elise Burroughs as publications director, Mr. Stinnett conducted a widespread search to fill the position. Mr. Branson, chosen from 75 applications, began work at ASNE on Feb. 20. He said he also co-chaired the search committee to hire the first executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association.

He noted that the ASNE home page on the World Wide Web would be published during the convention week with material from the ASNE Reporter. The staff will expand the site after the convention.

Mr. Seaton, reporting as president of the **ASNE Foundation**, said member contributions to the foundation have met the level of the previous year. All directors (both ASNE and ASNEF) made contributions. The major program initiatives, funded by newspaper-related foundations, are progressing on schedule. ASNE Foundation continues to take a very conservative approach to its investments, which are currently earning about 6.5 percent.

Ms. Rowe presented the following report of the **secretary**.

Since the board met in October, there have been no deaths and 21 resignations and ineligibilities. Eight members have requested transfer to the retired rolls. Four members dropped last fall requested reinstatement. Thirty eight member applications were considered earlier and at the Saturday meeting. Two were declined and 36 elected. Membership stands at 874; 686 active and 188 retired. This compares to 873 at the same time last year.

New members elected Tuesday (30):

John Armstrong, editor and vice president/news, Walnut Creek (Calif.) Contra Costa Times
 David Brace, vice president/news, Ottaway Newspapers, Campbell Hall, N.Y.
 Lorraine Branham, executive editor, Tallahassee Democrat
 Edward Bristol, managing editor, Attleboro (Mass.) Sun Chronicle
 Deirdre Channing, editor, Stamford (Conn.) Advocate
 Janet Clayton, editor of the editorial pages, Los Angeles Times
 Francis Coombs Jr., assistant managing editor/news, Washington Times
 Carl Crothers, managing editor, Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal
 Walter Dawson, managing editor, Monterey County (Calif.) Herald
 Kenneth Doctor, managing editor, St. Paul Pioneer Press
 Bruce Dold, deputy editorial page editor, Chicago Tribune
 Gordon Fisher, vice president, editorial, Southam Inc., Don Mills, Ontario (former member)
 Debra Flemming, editor, Mankato (Minn.) Free Press (former member)
 Stuart Garner, president and CEO, Thomson Newspapers Canada, Toronto
 Gloria George, executive editor, Hagerstown (Md.) Herald-Mail
 Charles (Randy) Hammer, executive editor, Springfield (Mo.) News-Leader
 Robert Jodon, editor, Adrian (Mich.) Daily Telegram (former member)
 Timothy Kalich, editor and publisher, Greenwood (Miss.) Commonwealth
 Ann Marie Lipinski, managing editor, Chicago Tribune
 John Moore, editor, San Luis Obispo (Calif.) Telegram-Tribune
 Joseph Pisani, editor, Greenwich (Conn.) Time
 Vikki Porter, executive editor, Palm Springs (Calif.) Desert Sun
 Vernon Smith, assistant managing editor, Dallas Morning News
 Ellen Stein Burbach, director, editorial product development, Thomson Newspapers
 Jeff Storey, managing editor, Middletown (N.Y.) Times Herald-Record
 Ray Sullivan, editor, Lima (Ohio) News
 Morris Thompson, editorial page editor, Philadelphia Daily News
 Georgiana Vines, editor, El Paso (Texas) Herald-Post
 Teresa Wasson, executive editor, Pensacola (Fla.) News Journal
 Stanford (Bruce) Witwer, managing editor, Tampa Tribune

The following were approved at the Saturday board meeting following approval of the bylaws change or further explanation of job duties:

Larry (Rusty) Coats, online news manager, Modesto (Calif.) Bee
 Frank del Olmo, assistant to the editor, Los Angeles Times
 Harry Gamble, Illinois editor, Illinois Times, Lansing, Ill., zoned edition of Munster (Ind.) Times
 Frederick Mann, general manager, Philadelphia Online (Internet service for Inquirer and Daily News)
 Lee Salem, editorial director, Universal Press Syndicate, Kansas City

Also approved on Saturday was Jane Eisner, editorial page editor, Philadelphia Inquirer, whose application had come in during the convention week.

The board declined to accept the following applications:

Kathryn Kennedy, manager/news staff recruiting, Gannett Co. Inc., Arlington, Va.
Jane Sutter, assistant to vice presidents/news, Knight-Ridder, Miami

Other changes in the ASNE membership since the fall board meeting were:

Reinstatements, dues paid (four)

William B. Brown, editor, Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser
Jerome Huff, managing editor, Fort Smith (Ark.) Southwest Times Record
Frank Keegan, executive editor, Easton (Pa.) Express-Times
Pete Weitzel, to retired membership, from a lapse after retiring as senior editor, Miami Herald

Resignations and ineligibilities (21):

Charles Anderson, editor, Wilmington (N.C.) Morning Star; resigned, no reason given
Mike Archer, executive editor, New York Times Regional Newspapers News and Graphics Network; dropped, leaving organization to become a columnist, no longer eligible
Lynn Ashby, former editorial page editor, Houston Post; dropped, paper closed, no forwarding address
Maggie Balough, former editor, Austin (Texas) American-Statesman; dropped, now editor, SPJ Quill, no longer eligible
David Doucette, former editor, Leesburg (Fla.) Daily Commercial; dropped, left paper and is working outside the newspaper business, no longer eligible
Hope Frazier, former executive editor, Thomson L.A. News Group; dropped, left papers and is not in a qualifying position
Gerald Garcia, former editor, Houston Post; dropped, paper closed, no forwarding address
Katharine Graham, chief executive officer, Washington Post; resigned, says she is slowly dropping out of things
Fred Hartmann, editor, Jacksonville (Fla.) Times-Union; resigned, sees "no valid reason for continuing membership in an organization in which I am unable to be active"
Ian Haysom, former editor-in-chief, Vancouver (B.C.) Sun; dropped, no longer eligible, left paper to return to writing career
Lou Heldman, publisher, State College (Pa.) Centre Daily Times; resigned, left executive editor, Tallahassee Democrat, and is not interested in continuing
Douglas Hope, senior editor/administration, San Diego Union-Tribune; resigned, former position as managing editor was eliminated and budget constraints
Gerald Keir, former editor, Honolulu Advertiser; dropped, left paper for position with bank, no longer eligible
John Komen, editorial page editor, Tacoma (Wash.) News Tribune; resigned, no reason given
Robert Landauer, former editorial page editor, Portland Oregonian; dropped, now columnist, no longer eligible
Stephen Lawrence, director of editorial development, Thomson Newspapers; dropped, no longer eligible, left company and bought weekly
Ignacio Lozano, editor and publisher, La Opinion, Los Angeles; resigned, retired and does not want to continue
Thomas Plate, former editor of the editorial pages, Los Angeles Times; dropped, no longer eligible, became columnist
Nancy Remsen, former managing editor, Bangor (Maine) Daily News; dropped, no longer eligible, left paper to join family in Vermont, not in qualifying position
Ruth Walker, former associate editor, Christian Science Monitor; dropped, no longer eligible, now overseas bureau chief
Lee Woodward, Huntsville (Ala.) News; resigned, retired when paper closed, offered retired and did not want to continue

Transfers to retired rolls (eight):

Ken Brief, Stamford (Conn.) Advocate and Greenwich Time
 Loren Ghiglione, Southbridge (Mass.) News
 John Hager, Owensboro (Ky.) Messenger Inquirer
 Roger Kullenberg, Kalamazoo (Mich.) Gazette
 Forrest Landon, Roanoke (Va.) Times
 Richard Martin, Kenosha (Wis.) News
 Werner Veit, Booth Newspapers, Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Gerald Warren, San Diego Union-Tribune

Transfers to other papers/title changes:

Andrea Aleff, Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) Sun Sentinel; associate editor to broadcast news editor
 Joan Behrmann, Palm Springs (Calif.) Desert Sun, to arts editor, Detroit News
 Kay Berenson, Hays (Kan.) Daily News, to publisher, Greenfield (Mass.) Recorder
 Judith Bolch, associate editor/writing to managing editor/enterprise, Raleigh (N.C.) News & Observer
 Randy Brandt, Norwich (Conn.) Bulletin, to managing editor, Marion (Ind.) Chronicle-Tribune
 Dennis Britton, Chicago Sun-Times, to editor in chief, Denver Post
 Judy Pace Christie, Shreveport (La.) Times, to executive editor, Melbourne Florida Today
 Judith Clabes, Kentucky Post, Covington, to special projects director, Scripps Howard Newspapers, Cincinnati
 Charles Cooper, Alameda Newspapers, Los Angeles, to managing editor, Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger
 Frank Daniels III, Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer, to editor and publisher, Nando.net, Raleigh, N.C.
 Sherida Dill, executive editor to associate publisher, Wichita (Kan.) Eagle
 Paula Ellis, Columbia (S.C.) State, from managing editor to assistant to the publisher
 Edward Frede, editor to executive editor, Danbury (Conn.) News-Times
 Gary Grossman, former executive editor, Middletown (N.Y.) Times Herald-Record, to executive editor, Salisbury (Md.) Daily Times
 Barbara Gutierrez, El Nuevo Herald, Miami, managing editor to executive editor
 Bennie Ivory, Florida Today, to executive editor, Wilmington (Del.) News Journal
 Tom King, El Paso (Texas) Herald Post, to editor, Redding (Calif.) Record Searchlight
 Paul Knue, Cincinnati Post, added position as editor, Kentucky Post, Covington
 Lawrence McConnell, Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, to publisher, Charlottesville (Va.) Daily Progress
 Robert McGruder, managing editor to executive editor, Detroit Free Press
 Tim McGuire, editor/general manager to editor/Sr. V.P. for Content, Minneapolis Star Tribune
 Paul McMasters, Freedom Forum First Amendment Center, Nashville, to First Amendment Ombudsman, Freedom Forum, Arlington, Va.
 John X. Miller, from executive editor, Lansdale (Pa.) Reporter, to managing editor, Myrtle Beach (S.C.) Sun News
 Bob Mong, Dallas Morning News, to publisher, Owensboro (Ky.) Messenger-Inquirer
 Heath Meriwether, executive editor to publisher, Detroit Free Press
 Joel Rawson, deputy executive editor to executive editor, Providence (R.I.) Journal-Bulletin
 Addie Rimmer, Boca Raton (Fla.) News, to executive editor, Boulder (Colo.) Daily Camera
 James Santori, Ottumwa (Iowa) Courier, to publisher, LaCrosse (Wis.) Tribune
 Mark Silverman, Gannett Co. Inc., to executive editor, Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal
 Cliff Schechtman, Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) Times Leader, to editor, Hyannis (Mass.) Cape Cod Times
 Craig Swanson, Omaha (Neb.) World Herald, to editor, Kenosha (Wis.) News
 Joseph (Chip) Visci, deputy managing editor to managing editor, Detroit Free Press
 Julia Wallace, Chicago Sun-Times, to executive editor, Salem (Ore.) Statesman-Journal
 Mike Whitehead, Salem (Ore.) Statesman Journal, to executive editor, Shreveport (La.) Times
 Owen Youngman, features editor to director, interactive media, Chicago Tribune

Unemployed/status pending:

Clay Haswell
 Betty Liddick

Mark Nadler
Jim Sunshine (offering retired)
Tom Tuley (offered retired)
John Walston

Mr. Seaton gave the report of the **treasurer**. The staff projects a potential profit of \$10,000 - \$12,000 for 1995-96, he noted. He proposed a budget for the coming year that closely mirrors the current year, anticipating \$977,500 in income and expenses. The 1997 dues will be unchanged. Convention fees will be raised: from \$475 to \$500 for members, from \$630 to \$650 for guests, and from \$265 to \$300 for journalism educators and retired members. The fee for spouses will be unchanged. A motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the proposed budget.

In the **vice president's** report, Mr. Giles noted that the dates for the fall board meeting in Detroit are Oct. 17-18. The 1996-97 committees will focus on the "basics of our business," he said. A newly created Newspaper Content Committee will evaluate copy that newspapers receive from a number of services. The new committee will engage ASNE in an assessment of newspapers. This committee's work will "go to the heart of what we do as editors," he said, "and will link to issues of credibility with readers."

Another major initiative in the coming months is a commemoration of 30 years of the FOI Act. A national symposium will be held Sept. 12-13 at The Freedom Forum. Other major journalism organizations have been invited to join ASNE in marking this important legislative anniversary. One purpose will be to help educate the public about the value of freedom of information.

Mr. Giles noted that Diane McFarlin plans to resign her position on the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications following the council's spring meeting. ASNE continues to be a leader on the council, he said, and he asked for suggestions of members who might be willing to commit to four or five years of service on ACEJMC.

The incoming president also invited suggestions about the 1997 convention, including whether or not to schedule Friday afternoon and evening events. Attendance at the events following the Friday lunch has been relatively low. There was wide support for concluding the convention with the lunch on Friday.

Turning to old business, the board was updated by Mr. Anderson on the question of including community diversity on the annual employment survey. He said that experiments conducted by his newspaper indicate that determining the proportions of minorities in a community is not as easy for ASNE to do as he had thought. The Gazette Telegraph spent about \$1,000 trying to determine the minorities percentage in the markets of three Colorado newspapers.

Mr. Anderson said, "The only real practical option is to ask editors to provide the information themselves. Ask them to use their judgment."

Mr. Johnson asked the Reston staff for their view on this matter. Mr. Stinnett expressed concern about the reliability of the information that ASNE would receive if we asked editors to provide it.

The board voted to add the following question to the survey beginning in 1997 (with precise wording to be determined by the staff later): "What is the minority population in your newspaper's primary market area?" Providing this information would be a voluntary option, not required for the newspaper's newsroom employment figures to be included in the survey report.

The board went into **executive session** and those not directors left the room.

When the meeting resumed, the committee chairs and vice chairs joined the group. Mr. Ketter called for reports from the committees.

Mr. Oppel said the **Convention Program** Committee worked as a team, with Mr. McGuire, vice chair, playing a vital role. Convention preregistration is 772 this year, compared to 644 final attendance in Dallas in 1995.

The reception at the Vice President's Residence has turned out to be very popular, he said. Major speakers include the Vice President, Sen. Bob Dole, Jonathan Kozol, Knight-Ridder CEO Tony Ridder and Speaker of the House Gingrich. The convention program addresses substantial topics and provocative issues, Mr. Oppel said. The editors who attend will find it yields valuable ideas and information. Mr. McGuire said the 1997 convention will include a session on strategic thinking.

Mr. George said the **Membership** Committee did “a lot of networking and old-fashioned selling.” Seventeen members worked in geographic regions. The Reston staff sent out three mailings over a three-month period. Ms. Howell said she plans to continue the regional approach in the coming year.

Mr. Moore said the **Nominations** Committee produced an outstanding slate of 12 candidates to vie for six openings on the ASNE board.

Mr. Carroll, who chaired the **Writing Awards** Board, was absent. Mr. Ketter noted that there was “a lot of fine journalism” represented in the entries.

Ms. Shiner, who chaired **The American Editor** editorial board, said the renamed and redesigned magazine has been well received. Mr. Branson noted that a January-February-March issue has been produced, and an April/May issue will be published shortly after the convention. He said publication of The Editors’ Exchange will resume and that ASNE’s online presence will be developed.

Mr. Coffey, **International**, noted that the trip to Southeast Asia was highly successful. Mr. Ritter indicated that the committee will launch “ASNE Watch” to focus on press freedom in a half-dozen countries around the world where journalists encounter difficulties with free expression. Mr. Seaton urged the committee to continue to speak out when U.S. journalists run into problems abroad.

Mr. Bailon gave an update on the **Unity** ‘99 convention, which will be held in Seattle. There will be more interchange among the four minority associations and more plenary events will be staged, compared to the Atlanta Unity convention in 1994.

Mr. Sturm, reporting for the **Newspaper Association of America**, said his group has completed a “strategic visioning” project and is concentrating on five key priorities – advertising, public policy, industry development, diversity, and technology. NAA has created an advertising subsidiary in New York City to promote national ads. The agency placed \$38 million in ads in its first year and hopes to sell \$60 million in the coming year. More emphasis will be put on circulation and readership in the future.

Mr. Ketter thanked NAA for generously continuing to administer the benefits for ASNE.

The meeting stopped for a lunch break, during which Mr. McGuire gave a presentation on what he learned from being responsible for circulation sales in addition to overseeing the newsroom. Certificates of appreciation were presented to Mr. Favre and Ms. Healy, retiring from the board, and to Nancy Andiorio who is leaving the ASNE staff after 13 years of employment. A certificate was also given to Mr. Schmidt to convey to Mr. Adler.

When the meeting resumed, Ms. Lynch gave the report of the **Minorities** Committee, describing the mentoring initiative and other projects. Ms. Zacchino said, “Diversity is not a luxury any more; it is a business imperative.”

Ms. Jennings noted that the annual employment survey found that 11.02 percent of newsroom employees are minorities. She indicated that the convention news lab is functioning with “a good crew” and that another poster listing newspaper internships will be published. “It’s a tremendous hit,” she said. Working with the Unity ‘99 group, an initiative to place minority interns at under-50,000-circulation has been launched. The goal was to generate four hires; two people have been placed.

The **Change** Committee organized a cost-effective weekend seminar in St. Louis, Mr. Woo reported. Mr. Thelen said next year’s committee would expand the “wonderful work” of the Journalism Values

Institute. Seven newspapers, each joined by a university journalism program, will explore disconnects with readers.

The **Future of Newspapers** Committee has focused on developing understanding of 16-to-29-year-olds, Mr. Gallagher noted. The research project indicated that young people today regularly pick up newspapers. The focus of the project was to develop ideas of what newspapers can do to encourage more newspaper readership among people in this age group. Mr. Campbell said next year's committee will shed light on the editor's role in strategic planning for the newspaper and continue newspaper readership studies.

Mr. Peck, **Ethics and Values**, said the Journalism Values Institute had broadened the definition of the core values of journalism. Some 30 editors participated in three seminars during the year. Editor involvement in the institute will be broadened to include about 120 editors in the coming year, according to Ms. Harshaw.

Ms. Keyes, **Education for Journalism**, said her experience during the year "made me a believer" in the need for newspapers and journalism school interaction. The major vehicle for this was the Knight-Foundation-funded Institute for Journalism Excellence. "We hire people who are the products of the journalism schools. The more interaction we have, the better off we are." She commended Ms. Borden for her work in connection with the institute.

ASNE's **Freedom of Information** Committee should concentrate on getting Congress to enact legislation to extend the Freedom of Information Act to electronic records, according to Mr. Landon. During 1995-96, ASNE reacted to the Central Intelligence Agency's reassertion of its right to recruit journalists as U.S. spies. Mr. Seaton said ASNE should oppose the recruitment of journalists, both foreign and U.S., as CIA informers.

ASNE joined the lawsuit that opposed prior restraint in the Newsweek case, he noted. Mr. Schmidt noted that supporters of the flag desecration measure had grossly outspent press groups in lobbying for enactment of the amendment.

Mr. Ketter noted that the past 12 months had been very important ones for defending the First Amendment. "Dick Schmidt was just incomparable."

Mr. Finney suggested that journalism schools be targeted during the FOI Act celebration and education project, because many young journalists don't really understand free speech issues.

Ms. Lightfoot, **Press, Bar and Public Affairs**, said her group concentrated on re-establishing relations with the military training academies. The Naval Academy in Annapolis canceled three appointments for an ASNE session on press/military relations, and ASNE had no success at all in its approach to the Air Force Academy. On the other hand, the presentation at West Point was very well received. Mr. Jacobs said the 1996-97 group will press the navy and air force academies.

The **Human Resources** Committee completed its copy editors initiative, according to Mr. Aubespain. The formation of an association of copy editors may be one result.

Ms. Wallace said the **Literacy** Committee generated a package of articles for The American Editor that explored kids and computers.

The **New Media** group planned a number of events for the 1996 ASNE convention, Mr. Ureneck reported, including a pre-convention seminar on the World Wide Web and the "Digital Deli" that will be open throughout the convention.

The **Small Newspapers** Committee organized teams to critique newspapers and put together a display of ideas on how newspapers can get closer to their communities, Mr. Pride said. Working with the Society of Newspaper Design, another survey of newsroom technology was conducted. In the coming year, the committee will take a fresh look at critical issues facing small newspapers, Mr. Currie reported.

The **Newspaper Content** Committee will take a “focused look at wire services and supplemental wires,” according to Mr. Weaver.

Mr. Woo proposed that a report be prepared for the fall meeting that addresses the question of outside income earned by journalists. Is this an issue for ASNE to involve itself in? The matter was deferred to Mr. Giles for the Saturday board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Membership meeting Thursday April 18

A business meeting of the membership was held to consider changes in the ASNE bylaws, previously approved by the board of directors and announced to the membership. Mr. Ketter presided and declared that a quorum was present. Ms. Rowe presented the two proposed changes, which were approved by voice vote with no objections or abstentions. The following actions were taken.

Article II, Section 1 was amended as follows:

Persons of suitable qualifications who are directing editors having immediate charge of journalistic policies and operations of daily newspapers, editorial and opinion pages, news gathering operations of daily newspapers, or wire services and other organizations that gather and publish information for daily newspapers, which, in the opinion of the directors, shall have attained adequate journalistic standards, are eligible for membership.

Formerly Section 1 of Article II read:

Persons of suitable qualifications who are directing editors having immediate charge of editorial or news policies of daily newspapers which, in the opinion of the directors, shall have attained adequate journalistic standards are eligible for membership. Membership shall also be open to directing editors of the Associated Press, Canadian Press, Reuters News Service, and United Press International.

Article II, Section 11 was amended as follows:

Retired members will have all of the same rights and privileges as regular members, except that they cannot hold office. Retired members who attend the convention may vote in the board of directors elections. Those who do not attend the convention may not vote.

Formerly Article II, Section 11 read:

Retired members will have all of the same rights and privileges as regular members, except that they may not vote or hold office.

There being no further business before the membership the session was concluded.

Meeting Friday April 19

The board met briefly to elect new officers to serve in 1996-97. Mr. Giles was installed as president, Ms. Rowe, vice president; Mr. Seaton, secretary; and Mr. Anderson, treasurer.

Meeting Saturday April 20

Mr. Giles called the meeting to order.

Board members attending:

Bob Giles, Detroit News, president
 Sandy Rowe, Portland Oregonian, vice president
 Edward Seaton, Manhattan (Kan.) Mercury, secretary - *Education for Journalism*
 Chris Anderson, Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, treasurer
 Gene Foreman, Philadelphia Inquirer - *Human Resources*
 Bob Haiman, The Poynter Institute, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Karla Garrett Harshaw, Springfield (Ohio) News-Sun - *Ethics and Values*
 Deborah Howell, Newhouse News Service, Washington, DC - *Membership*
 Bill Ketter, Quincy (Mass.) Patriot Ledger
 Linda Lightfoot, Baton Rouge (La.) Advocate - *The American Editor co-chair*
 Ron Martin, Atlanta Journal and Constitution
 Diane McFarlin, Sarasota (Fla.) Herald-Tribune - *FOI*
 Marcia McQuern, Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise
 Tim McGuire, Minneapolis Star Tribune - *Convention Program*
 Acel Moore, Philadelphia Inquirer - *Nominations*
 Rich Oppel, Austin (Texas) American-Statesman - *The American Editor, co-chair*
 Bill Woo, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Board members absent:

Richard Aregood, Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger
 John Carroll, Baltimore Sun
 Al Johnson, Columbus (Ga.) Ledger-Enquirer - *Nominations*

Committee chairs attending:

Cole Campbell, Virginian-Pilot - *Future of Newspapers*
 Phil Currie, Gannett Co., Inc. - *Small Newspapers*
 Mike Finney, Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald - *Literacy*
 Jane Healy, Orlando Sentinel - *New Media*
 Mike Jacobs, Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald - *Press, Bar and Public Affairs*
 Mary Jo Meisner, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - *Writing Awards Board*
 Rick Rodriguez, Sacramento (Calif.) Bee for Narda Zacchino - *Minorities*
 Bob Ritter, Gannett News Service - *International*
 Gil Thelen, Columbia (S.C.) State - *Change*

Other attendees:

Diane Borden, ASNE project director
 Craig Branson, ASNE publications director
 Kevin Goldberg, Cohn and Marks
 Veronica Jennings, ASNE minority affairs director
 Dick Schmidt, Cohn and Marks, ASNE legal counsel
 Lee Stinnett, ASNE executive director

Mr. Giles congratulated Mr. Ketter on a great ASNE year and Mr. Oppel on a highly successful convention.

He also congratulated the winners in the board election. The results of the election were as follows:

Winning three-year terms were:

*Richard A. Oppel, editor, Austin (Texas) American-Statesman, 182
 *Deborah Howell, editor, Newhouse News Service, 173
 *Tim J. McGuire, editor/senior vice president for content, Minneapolis Star Tribune, 147
 John S. Carroll, editor, Baltimore Sun, 142
 Richard Aregood, editorial page editor, Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger, 136

Winning a one-year term was:

Linda C. Lightfoot, executive editor, Baton Rouge (La.) Advocate, 126

Other candidates were:

Ralph E. Langer, executive editor, Dallas Morning News, 123
 Michael J. Jacobs, editor, Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald, 119

*Timothy J. Gallagher, editor, Ventura (Calif.) County Star, 116
 Mike Pride, editor, Concord (N.H.) Monitor, 110
 Maxine L. Lynch, managing editor/personnel, Cleveland Plain Dealer, 105
 Bill Kovach, curator, Nieman Foundation, Cambridge, Mass., 100

*Incumbents

There were 266 valid ballots, including 19 absentee. There were five invalid ballots, including one absentee.

Members of the election committee were Thom Greer, Cleveland Plain Dealer, chairman; Joe Distelheim, Huntsville (Ala.) Times; Debbie Price, Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram; Karen Wada, Los Angeles Times; and Hunter George, Lakeland (Fla.) Ledger.

The board approved the following resolution:

Resolved that Fidelity, Merrill Lynch, Scudder, and George Mason Bank are hereby designated as depositories for the funds of this Society and that said banks are hereby authorized and directed to pay checks and other orders for the payment of money drawn in the name of this Society when signed by either Robert H. Giles, president; N. Christian Anderson III, treasurer; or Lee Stinnett, executive director. In addition, George Mason Bank is authorized and directed to pay checks up to \$500 in the name of this Society when signed by Christine L. Schmitt. And that said banks shall not be required to make inquiry respecting the application of any instrument executed in virtue of this resolution or of the proceeds therefrom, nor be under any obligation to see to the application of such instrument or proceeds.

Mr. Giles asked Mr. Woo and Ms. Lightfoot to serve with Mr. Seaton on the committee to screen membership applications.

Mr. Schmidt introduced his colleague, Kevin M. Goldberg, who will assist the ASNE legal counsel in his ASNE work.

The committee chairs updated their plans for 1996-97. Their strategies will be as follows:

- **The American Editor**, ASNE's nine-times-a-year magazine, serves as a forum for newspaper editors to speak out, sound off, trade ideas and offer solutions to newsroom problems. Outside critics and other views find expression in the magazine. ASNE also produces The Editors' Exchange, a newsletter providing tips about innovative ideas developed in today's newsrooms. Both are sent without charge to ASNE members and are available to others by subscription.
- **Change**. The Change Committee will explore ways to understand how newsroom change compares and contrasts to change in other industries, how newsroom change can be measured, and how newspapers can engage hard-to-reach community segments in constructive mutual understanding.
- **Convention Program**. The 1997 ASNE convention will be April 8-11, in Washington, D.C. Among the major issues to be addressed at the convention are how editors can refine their critical thinking, improve newspaper content, address the increasing diversity and fragmentation of the communities that newspapers cover, and better understand the role of the editor vis-à-vis the publisher.
- **Education for Journalism**. ASNE plays an important role in the accreditation of journalism schools and supports the free speech rights of the collegiate press. A major project is the Institute for Journalism Excellence, which engages college journalism teachers in an intensive seven-week program and immerses them in newspaper operations. The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation funds the project. The committee also will focus on censorship of high school

journalism and establish on ASNE's home page an online vehicle for editors and educators to access each other's research. ASNE will help organize a session during the journalism educators convention in Anaheim, Calif.

- **Ethics and Values.** The committee plans to help editors improve newsroom understanding of journalism values in ways that connect with various communities. Four regional seminars, funded by the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, will be offered to ASNE members. A fifth seminar will involve editors of online publications in the process. Conceptions and ideas developed through the Institute for Journalism Values will be conveyed to newspaper publishers.
- **Freedom of Information.** ASNE is committed to dogged, aggressive efforts to preserve and expand freedom of the press. The committee seeks to add electronic access to the federal FOI Act and to strengthen the existing law in other ways. ASNE is leading the effort to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the federal FOI Act. A "Your Right to Know" project calling attention to the usefulness of FOIA in the preparation of news stories is another priority. ASNE looks for relationships with other groups – including the Associated Press Managing Editors, Society of Professional Journalists, and Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press – to advance FOI efforts.
- **Future of Newspapers.** The committee will create a handbook to help editors bring a strategic focus to news content and contribute to the leadership of the whole newspaper company. A new, systematic approach to readership studies will be undertaken with the Newspaper Association of America. The survey series will create new knowledge useful to editors and not simply update data that tell them what they already know.
- **Human Resources.** The committee will explore ways in which newspapers of all sizes can improve their in-house training. A continuing focus will be put on increasing job satisfaction on the copy desk. ASNE is conducting a major survey of newsroom attitudes and demographics.
- **International.** ASNE Watch focuses on a group of nations where newspapers are struggling against government censorship. The nations are Turkey, Cuba, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Serbia and Bosnia, and Zimbabwe. The Freedom Forum and ASNE will organize the 1996 International Journalism Exchange, bringing 10 directing editors of newspapers to the United States for a five-week interchange with American newspapers. A fact-finding trip for editors to the Austral-Asia region (Cambodia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia, with an optional stop in Australia) will take place Jan. 24-Feb. 15, 1997.
- **Literacy.** The committee promotes ways in which newspapers can increase reading ability and the habit of reading. A conference on literacy, to engage editors and writers with scientists who can offer the latest information on how people read, will be organized in the fall
- **Membership.** Various options to expand membership are being pursued, including organizing regional meetings and working with newspaper corporate leaders to encourage their editors to join. The current membership is around 875, including 185 retired editors.
- **Minorities.** ASNE will continue to be a major player in efforts to improve newsroom diversity. Projects to put editors in contact with aspiring minority applicants include job fairs, short courses on campuses with large minority enrollments, and a mentoring program. Other particular initiatives in the current year are the production of a video to interest young Hispanics in newsroom careers and a CD-ROM or video on diversity training. A diversity online forum and chat line will be created.
- **New Media.** ASNE will develop ideas editors can use in their new media operations, including insights on how to operate newspaper-owned 24-hour cable television units as well as online publishing.

- **Newspaper Content.** The committee will survey and evaluate a half dozen coverage areas from the major services. The topics will include the presidential election, the Atlanta Olympics, television, personalities/ celebrities/people, and two others.
- **Nominations.** A slate of candidates will be offered for the spring 1997 ASNE board of directors election. Nominees will reflect the core values of the Society, including diversity and service to ASNE, and will represent large and small newspapers.
- **Press, Bar and Public Affairs.** The committee fosters understanding and support of free-press principles among attorneys and judges. ASNE encourages editors to participate as panelists at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nev., and the Society organizes visits to military training academies, the war colleges and military bases.
- **Small Newspapers.** ASNE focuses on practical ways to help editors of small- and medium-sized newspapers improve quality, effect and deal with change, and move their newspapers toward excellence. The key 1996-97 project will be to determine through focus groups and a survey the most critical issues/concerns facing editors of newspapers under 50,000 circulation today. It further will determine which headaches the editors would most like to cure. The committee also will update an ASNE Small Newspapers' recruiting brochure.
- **Writing Awards.** ASNE encourages good writing and excellent journalism through the annual ASNE Distinguished Writing Awards and the Jesse Laventhol Prizes. The Laventhol awards carry two \$10,000 cash prizes, one for an individual and another for a team effort, for work done on deadline. The 1997 ASNE Distinguished Writing Awards consist of four cash prizes of \$2,500 each given to newspaper staffers who distinguish themselves as writers in the areas of non-deadline writing, commentary, editorial writing and coverage of religion and spirituality.

Mr. Woo offered to prepare a memo on income earned by journalists from outside sources and to present it at the fall meeting. The offer was accepted. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sandra Mims Rowe, ASNE secretary
Portland Oregonian