

Minutes of the American Society of Newspaper Editors Foundation
Board of Directors -- April 6, 1990

The board of directors of ASNE Foundation met during the ASNE convention at the call of president William R. Burleigh, Scripps Howard. Those present included Mr. Burleigh; Loren Ghiglione, Southbridge (Mass.) News; William Hilliard, Portland Oregonian; David Lawrence Jr., Miami Herald; John Seigenthaler, Nashville Tennessean/USA Today; James D. Squires; Richard M. Schmidt Jr., legal counsel; Lee Stinnett, ASNE executive director; and Christine Schmitt, ASNE administrative assistant. Absent were Burl Osborne, Dallas Morning News, and Robert Stiff, Tallahassee (Fla.) Democrat.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Mr. Ghiglione, who chaired the nominating committee, made the following recommendations, which were accepted by the board. Mr. Burleigh will continue as president; Mr. Osborne is the newly elected vice president; Mr. Stiff was reelected treasurer; and Mr. Stinnett will continue as secretary and assistant treasurer. In addition, Messrs. Lawrence and Seigenthaler were elected to three-year terms.

Mr. Stinnett presented the treasurer's report in Mr. Stiff's absence.

The Foundation's working funds grew by \$64,344 during the first seven months of the fiscal year. Of the more than \$1 million working funds balance, \$373,987 is earmarked, and \$540,000 is invested long-term. Discussion ensued regarding how to reinvest maturing funds. Certificates of deposit from banks and savings and loans are now insured by the federal government and usually yield more than treasury notes. The consensus was to go with treasuries. Mr. Burleigh and Mr. Stiff will continue to be consulted when specific investments mature.

Mr. Burleigh asked what program expenses would continue into 1990-91. These were determined to be the International Journalism Exchange Program, \$10,000; Isaiah Thomas history award, \$1,000; Writing Awards, \$12,500; and \$5,000 reimbursement to ASNE for administrative support, for a total of \$28,500.

Mr. Ghiglione indicated that ASNE Foundation will receive royalties from "The American Journalist" book, which he expects to be published by Houghton-Mifflin. Mr. Lawrence thought journalism libraries would want copies. Mr. Seigenthaler suggested that a promotion might be done in conjunction with the First Amendment Committee books to be produced next year. Ghiglione also said that ASNE Foundation "won't get rich" from the royalties, and he recommended delaying any promotional efforts until more is known about its publication.

Mr. Stinnett indicated that the balance in the International Journalism Exchange program will be about \$17,000 at the end of the current three-year set in 1990. He commended Mr. Hilliard for his help in securing payment of the Newhouse Foundation pledge.

The readership projects are only \$10,300 shy of the required funding of \$130,300. Mr. Stinnett commended Gregory Favre for his outstanding solicitation job. He also said that McCormick Charitable Trust was pleased that ASNE is broadening the base of support for such projects.

The Sixth Circuit Court project showed a balance in its account of \$7,731 as of March 23, 1990. Mr. Seigenthaler indicated that he and Mr. Stolberg have committed to raising more money for the project. He reported that the program was well received, Mr. Delaney is a "real find," and Judge Merritt is "delighted." Mr. Schmidt said he thought similar programs would be initiated nationwide, and that the leaders of the House of Representatives think the judiciary could handle the costs. Mr. Squires suggested that state press associations could be involved for both funding and execution of programs.

Discussion shifted to a proposal that \$40,000 be set aside for ASNE committee projects during 1990-91. This sum represents projected interest income less the \$12,500 needed for the Writing Awards. The board approved the plan, indicating that sums need not be assigned to specific committee projects at this time.

Approximately \$16,000 was received as a result of Mr. Burleigh's solicitation of members last fall. Ms. Schmitt commented that the annual request, instead of biennial solicitations, was less confusing to the members and easier for the staff to administer.

A letter from Sullivan and Company, ASNE Foundation auditors, was reviewed by the board. It stated that the company is still awaiting a response from an IRS appeals officer with regard to abatement of a penalty and interest for omission of Schedule A from the 1988-89 990 form. The auditor's letter further stated that "the Foundation was not at fault in this matter and will not suffer any financial burden for this penalty."

The directors approved the following banking resolution:

Resolved that Dominion Bank, Dreyfus, Merrill Lynch, Vanguard and Washington Bank are hereby designated as depositories for the funds of this Foundation when signed by either William R. Burleigh, president; Robert M. Stiff, treasurer; or Lee Stinnett, secretary/assistant treasurer. 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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Lee Stinnett, secretary and assistant treasurer