



MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 10, 2011 EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**2011-2012
Board of
Directors***

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Call to order: By President Jerry Papazian at 7:00 p.m. EDT.

Roll call: Participating: Beth Ambrose, Bob Borsari, Chris Cobey, Brendan McCann, Vance Morrison, Jerry Papazian, Bill Peard, Joe Stewart, Shelley Thomas.

9 of 9 Directors participating.

Purpose of Emergency Call – Termination of House Page Program.

On Monday, August 8th 2011 in a joint letter from Speaker John Boehner and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, they announced that the House Page Program would be terminated at the end of the month. Reasons cited point to a recent report, requested by the two, on the value of the program. The report, generated from confidential interviews, claims that due to the overall budget and technological advances there was no more need for the House Page Program.

What can the USCPAA do? What role should the USCPAA play?

We have learned that the reports cited by the Speaker and Minority Leader will not be released to the public, so short a FOIA request, it will be difficult to fully ascertain all the real reasons for the termination. Efforts to define the value of the House Page Program are underway by the Alumni Association. It was also noted that this serves as a good opportunity to 'modernize' page roles and responsibilities as they still serve a valuable and historical role. Separately, on another note, a cost-analysis of the current program was submitted to the Board by an alumnus for review in our efforts.

Jerry reminded the Directors that as holding non-profit status, there are innate constraints to what the Association can and cannot do. Example: we cannot proactively "lobby" using more than 5% of our funds. It was suggested on the call that we verify the formal definition of "lobby efforts."

It was also decided, before issuing an official statement or Press Release the USCPAA will work toward gathering more concrete information. However, all publications found on the House Page Program termination will be posted on the website along with information on our activity, and submitted post-testimonies, etc.

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Lastly, it was reported that the House Historian and Clerk's Office are actively preserving and protecting existing House Page objects. Jerry has been in contact with the House History office to offer any help to preserve and write a history of the program.

Is there a better solution? The USCPAA desires to take a lead role in re-establishing the House Page Program while also not acting irrationally in response. An action item was agreed on: establish a committee of three to four "lifers" (ex: Donn Anderson) to answer questions and come up with alternative solutions (ex: re-combine House and Senate Programs to significantly pare down the cost of housing, teaching, overhead, etc). Hopefully via the options, there is an acceptable solution or compromise that the House Leadership will be receptive towards to restore the House Page Program. Restoration in some form is the long-term end goal.

A discussion on how to "keep the program on life support" in the interim, or short-term, also ensued.

House Page Network Activation:

Petition: Three younger House pages (Carlos del la Torre, Miles Taylor and James Barnes) independently have set-up a website and began a petition to be delivered Monday, August 15th. Further, they have also met with Cong. John Dingell and Dan Boren's offices (former Pages) to work on a "Dear Colleague" letter. We have combined and connected our efforts with his to create a mutually beneficial relationship.

Facebook: Several Facebook pages dedicated to the House Page Program have appeared in the last few days. Coordination and consolidation efforts have also ensued.

Impact on the USCPAA to date: The official Alumni email account has been exploding with inquiries from the Press as well as fellow Alums. Separately, as a 'silver-lining,' interest in the 2012 Reunion has sky-rocketed despite the proposed tours of the House appearing to have disintegrated. The website is also experiencing an overload in 'hits.' Jerry, as President, has partaken in several media interviews to date thus shedding further light on the Alumni Association and our efforts.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendan McCann
Secretary