



**MINUTES
OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2016
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Board of Directors
2016**

Jerry Papazian (H '71-72)
President

Beth Ambrose (H '91)
1st Vice President

Chris Cobey (H '65-67)
2nd Vice President

Jeffery Clark (S '67-69)
Treasurer

Vance Morrison
Secretary (SC '52-56)

Ellen McConnell
Blakeman (S '72)

Bob Borsari (S '57-58)

Peter Darby (H '83)

Ali Davis (H '91)

Bill Peard (H '02)

Jason Rae (S '04)

Duane Taylor (H '78)

Miles Taylor (H '05)

Shelley Thomas (H '90)

Sean E. Tucker (H '84)

Joe Stewart (S '53)
Senior Advisor

I. Called to order: By President Jerry Papazian at 7:03 p.m. EST via teleconference. Participating: Chris Cobey, Jeffery Clark, Vance Morrison, Ellen McConnell Blakeman, Peter Darby, Ali Davis, Jason Rae, and Shelley Thomas. A quorum was present. Jerry welcomed everybody, explained that he planned for a short meeting and that a lot has happened since the October Board of Directors meeting, and then opened the meeting.

II. October 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Minutes were approved, with one correction on page one to change the word "next" to "net," and with thanks to Chris Cobey for substituting as Secretary for the meeting.

III. Committees and Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (Jerry Papazian):

- 1. President's Report (Papazian):** The next Board meeting will be in February when we plan to add more members to the Board and vote for a new slate of officers. A few nominee names have already been submitted and Jerry will receive any additional names submitted by Board members for consideration by a newly-created nominating committee who will vet all nominees and discuss officer positions. Jerry plans to call all members to ascertain their interests and comments. Our focus will be on improving the data base and the (new) House Page Committee's efforts. A lot has changed in the House itself but the good news with regard to restoring the Page program is Speaker Ryan remains in office.
- 2. Democracy's Messengers (Papazian):** Jerry reported that the documentary will probably be released late winter/early spring, providing an opportunity to be screened at various appropriate places. Talks with the National Archives for a special screening at their theatre in Washington, DC are in progress with a date to be determined.
- 3. Washington Leadership Academy (WLA) (Papazian):** No report.

B. Finance Committee: (Jeff Clark):

- 1. Treasurer's Report (Clark):** Jeff advised members to note the new statement he issued prior to the Board meeting. We still need to raise more capital, a position that is clearly stated in the documents. Overall, we did well in the Homecoming with a small profit, despite the hotel penalty for not making the contracted occupancy numbers. Jeff hopes the Board will come up with a plan to increase revenue. Jerry noted that there will still be more expenses as well as revenue in December; memberships (new and renewal) have been coming in the last few days

through the website, possibly a result of the recent mailing. Jeanne's salary is also due soon, with about \$20K in the bank. The joint member mailing was expensive but we should see some positive results in January. Printing and mailing costs for the joint membership mailing are split between us and the US Capitol Historical Society.

C. Events Committee (Peter Darby):

- 1. Events (Darby):** Two major events are planned in 2017: the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library event in Southern California on March 25th, and Edward M. Kennedy Institute event in Boston on June 10th. Advance registration for the Reagan Library will be open mid-January and in the spring for the Boston event.
- 2. Regional Events (Darby):** In addition to the Regional events listed in the report sent to all members, Peter plans to push for a DC-area Happy Hour on the Hill in April or May, perhaps in conjunction with the screening of the Page documentary.

D. Membership/Marketing Committee (Blakeman/Davis):

- 1. Membership Development (Blakeman/Davis):** The committee has been busy attempting to better gain and retain members. There now is a specific process for renewal reminders, using automatic emails 30 days beforehand and at expiration as well as a reminder postcard (30 to 60 days out) that should improve the situation and clarify for members where they stand relative to their renewal. The committee determined that in the past 12 months 150 members have not renewed. Postcards have been sent to all and some have already renewed as a result. The system now seems to be working. For the past year, the following has been recorded: 44 Junior members (18 are new); 150 Annual members: (79 new and 71 renewals); 51 Joint members; and 171 Life members. It is difficult to determine exactly when someone is no longer a member as they can renew at any time after their expiration date. Phone calls to encourage renewal or to determine why someone has dropped out were suggested.
- 2. Website (Davis):** The site needs more content, especially event news, and more photographs, with write-ups such as the Rangers game and the Ken Smith Luncheon.
- 3. Joint Mailing (Papazian):** All non-members should have received the mailing recently. An incentive prize was offered, to those submitting contact information on missing members, for a trip to either of the 2017 major events. Ellen Blakeman has offered to sponsor the contest. The Boston event had been scheduled earlier but was delayed until June to permit time to activate new members.
- 4. Call Teams (Ellen):** Will continue to work as diligently as they can.
- 5. Class Whips (Papazian):** A retired doctor, class of '68, has volunteered to be the Whip for the Class of 1968. He personally did a great deal of work to validate his class in the data base. Working with 80 names, he determined that 10 had bad information; some were deceased; and he was able to gather the e-mail addresses of 25-30 others. His method was low-tech and a good model for anyone to follow. This reinforces the

notion that such good ideas often come from the bottom-up, not top-down.

E. Long Term Strategy Committee (Cobey): Not discussed.

IV. Open Discussion. Jeff announced that he will travel to DC in January and asked about the possibility of his making contact with someone in the Senate History office (Kate Scott) who seems eager to talk with former pages. Ms. Scott was a panelist at the 2016 Homecoming discussion on female pages. Jerry responded to a question about our ball caps, t-shirts and book sales process. He will ensure the information is in future e-mails. Ellen suggested it also be in future newsletters as well as the website. Jerry agreed. Jerry advised that the e-mail regarding the contest will be sent out Monday and a year-end fund solicitation, as was done last year, is in the works. He asked again for Board member suggestions for names of potential new Board members.

V. Next Board Meeting (Papazian): Thursday, February 16, 2017

VII. Meeting Adjourned: 7:35 p.m. ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Vance H. Morrison
Secretary