2017

London AGM

14 October 2017

AGM held at:
Goldsmiths University of London, New Cross,
London SE14 6NW
Saturday, October 14

12.30pm  Lunch and Registration
1.30pm  Welcome and outline of day’s events by the President

THE UNION
1.40pm

IoJ (TU) session – Everyone welcome but only non-employing members will be able to vote on Trade Union matters.

1. The Chairman of the Professional Practices Board (PPB) will take the chair and report on its activities.
2. The General Secretary, Dominic Cooper, will report on the support that has been provided to members over the last year.
3. The Honorary Treasurer, Michael Hardware, to move:
   - that the audited accounts of the Institute of Journalists (TU) for 2016 be received and accepted.
4. Q & A session on the work of the PPB.
5. Elections to the PPB.

THE CHARITIES
2.10pm

6. Reports by Chairmen of the Institute’s Charities:
   - the Orphan Fund;
   - the Benevolent Fund, Dominic Cooper;
   - the Oak Hill and TP O’Connor Fund, Ken Brookes;
   - the Pension Fund, Ken Brookes.
7. Q & A session on the work of the CIoJ and its charities.

THE INSTITUTE
2.30pm

8. The President, Mark Croucher, will take the chair.
9. The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Michael Hardware, to move:
   - that the audited accounts of the Chartered Institute of Journalists and its charities for 2016 be received and accepted. The Honorary Treasurer will take questions on the Institute’s finances.
10. The President to move:
    - that the 132nd report of the Chartered Institute of Journalists and the IoJ(TU) as submitted to the membership be received and accepted.
11. The President to move that any business unfinished by the end of the meeting shall be referred for consideration by Council.
12. Resolution: Change to Standing Order 3.1.1
Proposed by Ken Brookes
A) Add new sentence at end: “Where a number of individuals carry out a journalistic function as a team (eg in reporting sporting or political events), Council may rule that all members of such a team shall be eligible for election as Members, providing that this is their sole or chief occupation.
B) After “Division.” Insert the words “For the avoidance of doubt, the Institute recognises as professional journalism any work of a journalistic nature, as defined in Bye-law 2(a), in which publication and distribution are wholly or partly electronic in nature and the activity is the applicant’s sole or chief occupation in terms of time and/or income.”

13. Resolution: Ethics - amend the Institute code of ethics
Proposed by Tim Crook
The Institute support the expansion of its code of ethics to include five new clauses offering an affirmation of positive values about the purpose and role of journalism to maintain an accurate public record of contemporary events for future generations, enhance and promote democracy, freedom and liberty, further the interest of responsible and professional journalism, and aspire to fairly report and represent the rich and diverse spectrum of human society.

Amendment:
In 2 it is proposed we change ‘Press Complaints Commission’ to Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)

Additional clauses:
11. You will recognise that there are more than two sides to any subject, and that responsible reporting is clear about what it omits, as well as what it includes in order to communicate the plurality, diversity and magnitude of the human condition and experience.
12. You should be able to compensate sources of any kind in proportion to the public interest value of their information and the risks they are undertaking.
13. You must treat all your sources, subjects, colleagues and members of the public with the utmost respect and exercise compassion, humanity, and general courtesy during your work to all your fellow human beings at all times.
14. You must remain conscious that facts change over time and there is a duty to update stories and amend archives to maintain accuracy and avoid misleading anyone searching, and stumbling upon outdated material.
15. You have a duty to engage with continuing professional development throughout your career, and to maintain and be up-to-date with all the skills required to carry out your role.

14. Resolution: Change to Standing Order 3.9
Proposed by Council
Delete Standing Order 3.9 in entirety
15. Resolution: **Change to Standing Order 1.1**
   Proposed by Council
   Delete “which is independent of the Council but”

16. Resolution: **Save our newspapers**
   Proposed by Tim Crook
   The Institute is committed to a campaign of research and development to find new ways of sustaining qualitative local and regional journalism in newspaper and multimedia publishing.
   The campaign will track and analyse news media closures and start-ups.
   The campaign will promote the concept of literacy and the social value of reading printed newspapers and magazines with readers of all generations.
   The campaign will investigate ideas for redressing the imbalance in advertising revenue gained by global social media businesses that has undermined the viability of printed newspapers.
   The campaign will engage with local, regional and national politicians and public bodies to assert the public interest and public sphere role of professional, qualitative and independent journalism that holds power to account and supports properly remunerated professional journalists.

17. Resolution: **Chartered Journalist**
   Proposed by Michael Hardware
   Recognising the increasing demands of professionalism in journalism, the competitiveness of the market and the need for diversification, this AGM authorises the Council to introduce a new status of membership: ‘Chartered Journalist’.
   A member who has served a specific length of time in membership, who has completed a prescribed number of recognised CPD hours during the previous year, who continues to undertake CPD, and who adheres to the various journalism codes of conduct, will be entitled to refer to themselves as a Chartered Journalist.
   This AGM authorises Council to devise the requirements of the new category, liaising with the Privy Council and amending standing orders as needed, as well as devising a programme of CPD and training opportunities for members to achieve the standards required.

18. Resolution: **Sir Ray Tindle**
   Proposed by Tim Crook
   The Institute declares its appreciation and thanks to Sir Ray Tindle for his commitment and service to newspaper journalism.
His avowed love of local newspapers and entrepreneurial ability to launch new titles, revive old ones, and demonstrate the viability of the local press has been an inspiration to the industry in dark times, and made a vital contribution to British democracy.

The Institute sends its very best wishes to him for his retirement in 2017.

19. Resolution: Open Justice campaign
   Proposed by Tim Crook
   The Institute calls on Parliament and the judiciary to sustain the vitally important principle of open justice which is under continuing threat from an expanding culture of reporting restrictions and a decline in media reporting facilities in the legal system. Open Justice depends on ensuring there are reasonable conditions to make professional reporting of court proceedings viable and accessible.
   The Institute supports a campaign: to improve notice and information about court listings for professionally accredited journalists; to improve relations and understanding between the judiciary and journalism industry through the setting up of regular meetings between editors and judges, particularly at regional court centres; to improve understanding by HM Court Service and the Ministry of Justice on the needs of professional journalists to be able to do their work effectively in court buildings and court-rooms; and convince Parliament and judges that that the imposition of speculative, unprecedented and unjustifiable reporting restrictions makes reporting the legal system prohibitively expensive and journalistically purposeless.
   When professional journalists as the eyes and ears of the public are unable to attend and offer public interest scrutiny of this vital aspect of the constitution, there can be no Open Justice and judicial accountability to the public.

20. Resolutions: Charities merger
   Proposed by Norman Bartlett
   Revisit of a motion presented at the 2016 AGM: In order that finances of the charities be simplified, management control improved, consistency in approach be encouraged and the administrative load on Head Office be eased, Conference requests Council to arrange, with the agreement of the Charity Commission, for the Orphan Fund, Benevolent Fund and Pensions Fund to be merged as a single charity overseen by one set of Trustees so that the Institute’s reserved charitable funds shall be more fit for purpose in today’s social environment.

5.00pm Close

7.30pm Dinner - for those who have already booked.