President’s Message

Dear Press Club Members,

Winter has returned to St. Louis and, with it, all of the cold, ice, snow and long gray days of the season. The post-holiday months of January and February, it seems, offer a perfect opportunity to slow our pace and look back on the busy, productive months of the year just past.

As Robert Frost wrote: “But I am done with apple-picking now; essence of winter sleep is on the night . . .”

But at the Press Club of Metropolitan St. Louis, winter is no excuse for resting on past accomplishments. Leave the hibernating to the snakes and the bears. There is too much to do.

Last month, your Press Club played host to our annual Media Person of the Year event, a wonderfully successful evening of drink, food and entertainment that warmed an otherwise bitterly cold Tuesday night and raised tens of thousands of dollars for student scholarships, enterprise journalism projects and support of the public library’s media archives. It was, pardon the baseball expression, a “Cracker Jack” experience for the nearly 400 in attendance, who arrived to honor our Media Person of the Year, Rick Hummel, as well as baseball announcer Bob Uecker and longtime St. Louis arts critic Robert Duffy. The event was the result of months of planning and could not have been possible without the stellar support of our corporate and individual sponsors, including many, many Press Club members.

And, barely pausing to catch our collective breaths, the Press Club is anticipating our Feb. 22 Beauty Buzz (we are told that both men and woman are welcome to take part) at Neiman Marcus at Plaza Frontenac. Again, proceeds will be used to pay for scholarships and other Press Club programs. See the invitation on the back of this newsletter for more details.

Rest assured that before the tulips are blooming, we will be busy planning more events – both small and large – to entertain, inform and delight our membership and the entire St. Louis community in the coming year.

We may not do a lot of sleeping in the winter, or any of the other seasons for that matter, but we still love to dream!

Bill Smith, President St. Louis Press Club
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For those who make, cover, and influence the news.

Mother-Daughter Duo Chairing Beauty Buzz

Beauty Buzz co-chairs, Leisa Zigman and daughter Micaila Edlin, pose for the camera at the planning meeting for the upcoming exclusive event at Neiman Marcus on February 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30.

Beauty Buzz will feature tips and tricks by experts from leading beauty brands, as well as special treats. The event will benefit the Press Club’s media scholarship and enterprise journalism grant programs.

Special thanks to Press Club member Diana Haneklau who spoke about STL250 at the January 29 Press Club at The Gatesworth Speaker Series

FIRST AMENDMENT CELEBRATION
benefiting St. Louis Journalism Review & Gateway Journalism Review
MARCH 29, 2014, 6 to 9:30 p.m.
at Edward Jones Headquarters featuring:
AMY GOODMAN (award-winning host of Democracy Now!)
RAY HARTMANN (Master of Ceremonies)

Welcome New Press Club Members!

New Members: Patti Beck, John Boul, Sandy Diamond, Madeleine Heppermann, Cheresse Pentella, Katherine Uptergrove and Annabelle Wilmott
Press Club members and guests gathered for our club’s 57th annual meeting on December 12 at The Highlands in Forest Park. Topping the brief business agenda was the announcement of our president-elect, Tom Eschen, who will begin his two-year term as president in January of 2015. Members than re-elected board members: Claudia Burris, Tom Eschen, Richard Gavatin, Margaret Gillerman, Jessica Brown, Michael Right, Gloria Ross, Patty Wente, and Richard Weiss for 2014-16 board of director terms. President Bill Smith shared highlights of our activities and accomplishments in 2013 and presented awards. Rick Stoff and Cynthia Kagan Frohlichstein were present to receive his President’s “Above and Beyond” Award. Unable to attend, but also named to receive the award were Pam Niehaus and Suzanne Corbett. Carol Lundgren and Ellen Futterman were tapped for the Catfish Club, an honor which recognizes exemplary contributions to media excellence and to the club.

Keynote speaker for the evening was our own Dick Weiss, who entertained us with his presentation “Mom and Pop Journalism in the Digital Age.”
Baseball Writer Rick Hummel Chosen Media Person of the Year
Broadcaster Bob Uecker and Newsman Bob Duffy Honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards

Bob Costas, John Rooney, Derrick Goold, Kevin Horrigan and Rocco Landesman helped us toast Hall of Fame baseball writer Rick Hummel as the 2014 Media Person of the Year, and famed broadcaster Bob Uecker and veteran newsman Bob Duffy with Lifetime Achievement Awards at our Press Club’s gala on January 21.

After a reception and dinner at the Edward Jones corporate headquarters, John Rooney, St. Louis Cardinals broadcaster, emceed the program leading off with Bob Duffy’s toast by Rocco Landesman, broadway producer and immediate past chair of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Duffy, associate editor of the *St. Louis Beacon*, joined the staff of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in 1973, where he stayed for 32 years. As a reporter, critic, columnist, editorial writer and editor, he spent time in virtually every department of the newsroom. In addition to the Post-Dispatch, articles penned by Duffy have appeared in national magazines such as *U.S. News* and *World Report*, *Smithsonian* and *Modernism* and he has contributed to several books on architectural and urban design.

Next up was Bob Costas, NBC Sportscaster toasting (and mildly roasting) Bob Uecker; drawing many laughs by quoting an assortment of Uecker’s own remarks.

Uecker, who was born in Milwaukee, signed with the then-Milwaukee Braves in 1956 and finished his baseball career with the Atlanta Braves in 1967. His playing days included two years with the St. Louis Cardinals (1964-65), during which time he was part of the club that beat the New York Yankees in the ’64 World Series.
As a sportscaster, Uecker has called countless baseball games for both ABC and NBC and hosted two syndicated television shows - “Bob Uecker’s Wacky World of Sports” and “Bob Uecker’s War of the Stars.”

*St. Louis Post-Dispatch* colleagues Derrick Goold, baseball writer, and Kevin Horrigan, columnist and editorial writer, toasted Rick Hummel, known affectionately throughout St. Louis as “the Commish.” Hummel, an authority on all things Cardinals, has written for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* since 1971. After graduating from the University of Missouri School of Journalism, Hummel served three years in the U.S. Army writing for the Colorado Springs Free Press-Sun while stationed in Colorado. Hummel’s big break in sports journalism came in 1978 when the Post-Dispatch assigned him to cover Hall of Fame Cincinnati pitcher Tom Seaver’s historic only career no-hitter. From there, Hummel continued to distinguish himself as the game day beat reporter for the Post-Dispatch until 2002, when he took on the role of the paper’s weekly baseball columnist. Hummel was elected president of the Baseball Writers Association in 1994 and inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007.
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