

Connecting - April 23, 2015

1 message

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Thu, Apr 23, 2015 at 8:59 AM

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Connecting

April 23, 2015

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Colleagues

Good Thursday morning!

Every organization has its unsung heroes who, with little fanfare, make things operate well. The AP is no exception.

Last Saturday, **Richard Carroll** passed away - four years after he retired following a 51-year career as a photo librarian in the New York Photo Library.

Connecting colleague **Chuck Zoeller** ([Email](#)) offers this remembrance:

At the time of his retirement in 2011, Dick was among the longest-serving active AP staffers, with 51 years in the New York photo library. For many of those years, in pre-digital days, he worked the overnight exclusively, where he would fill thick ledgers with the call letters (NY5, CX7, LON10 and so on) of all the photos that had moved on the network that day. Those ledgers would be used to log in the negatives for each individual

photo when the actual film eventually arrived in New York. It was very Dickensian work which finally ended with the introduction of Photostream, when the volume of photos made logging in the negatives a Sisyphean task.

Even though he was on the overnight most of his career I never saw Dick not wearing a suit coat, which seemed to fit his refined bearing. He liked to travel and seemed highly cultured. So I was pleased and surprised one night while working late on a project. Dick and I were the only ones in the photo library when he remarked on the Jimi Hendrix box set I was playing. I said that I didn't really figure him for a Hendrix fan. His reply, "Oh, I spent many nights at the Fillmore East." I always saw him in a new light after that. RIP.



Information on his funeral services was not immediately available.

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Today's Connecting brings news from the release Wednesday of the 2014 annual report of The Associated Press. Click [here](#) to read an interactive presentation of the report.

We lead off with the AP wire story summarizing the report.

Paul

Associated Press posts first revenue gain in 6 years

NEW YORK (AP) - The Associated Press boosted its revenue for the first time in six years in 2014, benefiting from special events and improved licensing of photo and video content, and the news cooperative said Wednesday that its profit soared.

Revenue grew 1 percent to \$604.0 million, up from \$595.7 million the previous year. Profit rose to \$140.9 million, its highest level since 2009, up sharply from \$3.3 million a year earlier. The bump came largely from the sale of its 50 percent stake in sports data company Stats LLC, which brought in \$128.3 million for AP, the company said in its annual report.

Video revenue last year was bolstered by sales of content and services around the World Cup, Winter Olympics and U.S. mid-term elections, along with new video contracts with existing client CBS in the U.S. and with RTL in Luxembourg. The gains were offset

The logo for The Associated Press, consisting of the letters 'AP' in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font.

somewhat by a drop in text revenue that was mainly due to Google's decision to stop licensing content.

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Revenue is expected to fall about 2 percent this year, because of the lack of special events, the strong U.S. dollar, which lowers overseas income, and the continued decline in revenue from U.S. newspapers, according to Chief Financial Officer Ken Dale.

A quarter of AP's revenue in 2014 came from newspapers around the globe, 47 percent came from TV broadcasters, 9 percent from Internet companies, 7 percent from other agencies, and 5 percent from radio stations.

Founded in 1846, the news organization is owned by roughly 1,400 U.S. newspapers. More than 80 percent of its revenue comes from licensing text, photos and videos to TV and radio broadcasters, newspapers and websites. It also provides logistics support to TV crews, software to broadcast news outlets, and advertising space on its own platforms.

The AP ended 2014 with no long-term debt, unchanged from a year earlier.

Expenses fell slightly to \$599.5 million from \$604.0 million, mostly because of adjustments to a post-retirement medical insurance plan.

The AP's revenue gains came at the expense of competitors, according to the annual report.

"An increasing number of media companies are choosing to have a single agency provide their content," said CEO Gary Pruitt and Chairman Mary Junck in the report. "Many of the organizations we negotiated with last year opted for AP as their content provider, often for longer terms, at the exclusion of the competition."

Dale said that despite the projected revenue decline next year, the AP has improved its financial footing. Aided by the sale of Stats in June of last year, the news organization used \$110.6 million to fund its future pension obligations, compared with a \$7.6 million contribution in 2013.

"We feel good about where we are right now," Dale said. "It's a tough environment and revenue growth remains our challenge. But we've got our pension on much sounder footing, we're debt free, have cash on the books and have attractive growth prospects in video, images and (broadcast news production software) ENPS."

Last year, the AP expanded video coverage in Latin America and the Middle East. It also expanded corporate earnings coverage through automation and hired staff in the U.S. focused on sharing member stories. Both initiatives were meant to free up time for AP journalists to do more original reporting.

The AP also announced Wednesday that it added two new members to its 20-member board of directors: Kirk Davis, CEO of GateHouse Media LLC and Patrick Talamantes, CEO of The McClatchy Co.

From the 2014 annual report, here is a summary of 2014 from Gary Pruitt, AP president and CEO, and Mary Junck, AP chairman:



Members and customers:

Sealed into protective gear and armed with bottles of bleach, hand sanitizers, goggles, gloves and masks, AP West Africa correspondent Krista Larson, photographer Jerome Delay and video producer Andy Drake set out last September to bring the story of Ebola in Liberia to the wider world in a way that went beyond numbers and medical facts. Their stories, photos and video showed the real impact of the disease: orphaned children, infected victims left dying in the streets, a health care system in shambles and an epidemic out of control.

In the United States, meanwhile, when federal health officials confirmed that a Texas resident had become the first person in the United States to develop the disease, AP reporters Emily Schmall and Nomaan Merchant tapped their deep community connections in Dallas. What they learned was stunning - the patient had been sent home from the hospital in spite of telling doctors that he had just been in Liberia, where Ebola was spreading unchecked. As the story grew, it revealed a U.S. health care system unprepared to deal with the emergency.

From West Africa to Dallas and beyond, it was quintessential Associated Press coverage:

Only AP's reach, depth and access could have provided such a full picture of the alarming crisis as it unfolded worldwide.

In a year of extraordinary unrest - deadly conflict, fatal epidemics, airplane crashes and natural disasters - AP leveraged its resources around the world to tell stories that no other media could. As we met the challenge of covering a chaotic and dangerous year, our stories broke news no one else had, provided crucial context and perspective and made a difference.

For The Associated Press, 2014 was a year of important accomplishments that reaffirmed and supported our mission to inform the world. Both revenue and cash flow exceeded the prior year, with cash flow growing for the third consecutive year and reaching the highest level since 2008. We sold STATS, our sports data joint venture with Fox Sports, and used the proceeds to significantly reduce our pension liabilities. As in 2013, AP ended the year with no debt.

We renegotiated several important agreements with major international and U.S. customers last year. Facing financial and competitive pressure, an increasing number of media companies are choosing to have a single agency provide their content. Citing our superior coverage and service, many of the organizations we negotiated with last year opted for AP as their content provider, often for longer terms, at the exclusion of the competition.

Demand for AP video news soared in 2014, and AP was positioned to meet it.

We routinely track the use of AP video by about half of our broadcast customers and in 2014 those broadcasters used more than 1,244 days of AP video - the equivalent of three years of continuous viewing. In response to the increasing demand, we added video journalists in the Middle East and launched a new service - AP Middle East Extra - for our customers there.

Focused on coverage such as lifestyle and technology that goes beyond conflict and breaking news in the region, Middle East Extra has proven immensely popular and has helped AP gain new customers and keep existing ones. We also strengthened our video newsgathering in Latin America, increasing our coverage by one-third.

AP Video Hub, the innovative platform we introduced three years ago for digital publishers and news websites, was expanded with the addition of a marketplace feature for the ingestion and sale of third-party video content.

Revenue from AP Video Hub more than doubled from 2013. At the same time, we streamlined our internal video workflows in the United States in order to reduce filing times and better integrate our video into customers' workflows. This year, AP will be increasing the number of live channels from which we offer video, both for breaking news and planned events, as well as providing enhanced coverage from Europe.

In the United States, we further bolstered AP's competitive strength in news from across the country by hiring dozens of journalists. We launched a pilot project at our Central

news hub in Chicago, to test the effectiveness of a shared news desk that would centralize the creation and distribution of content from our newspaper, radio station and broadcast members in the region. The experiment was a decisive success: The shared news desk there is producing 400 additional stories a month for members, with the biggest increase during the early morning hours that are so critical to broadcasters and online traffic. Meanwhile, our regular beat journalists have now been freed up to create original and exclusive content for AP members. We are rolling out similar desks in our other three U.S. news hubs - Atlanta, Phoenix and Philadelphia - this year.

We took innovative steps to leverage our journalistic resources in other ways too last year. We began using automation technology to produce earnings reports for many U.S. companies and allow more beat journalists to pursue original enterprise and breaking news. Since the automation began, in July, we are producing more than 3,000 stories about U.S. corporate earnings each quarter.

As a result of technological innovations, governments today possess a powerful and growing ability to monitor the actions and communications of their citizens and the media. We experienced this firsthand in 2013 when we learned that the U.S. Department of Justice had secretly seized the records of thousands of AP's phone calls as part of a leak investigation. After AP and media around the world expressed outrage, the DOJ agreed to review the federal guidelines concerning the use of subpoenas on journalists. Early this year, the Justice Department issued substantively revised protocols that significantly strengthen protections for journalists.

If we had not vigorously protested, these changes would not have been made.

The lesson? In this day and age, all media must stay vigilant in support of free press rights and must always fight against government overreach. AP does this as part of its mission - we have ever since our founding nearly 170 years ago. But the fight grows ever more challenging - and costly. A joint project with AP member newspapers this year found that many states are making the cost of a public records request so high that media and public can't afford it. That's one way to stop the free flow of public information.

Last year was the deadliest for AP in more than two decades. We lost three journalists in war zones in 2014. In April, photographer Anja Niedringhaus was shot and killed by an Afghan policeman charged with protecting her. In August, videographer Simone Camilli and translator Ali Abu Afash died when an unexploded bomb went off in Gaza. (In addition, AP Cuban photographer Franklin Reyes was killed in a car crash on assignment.) Reporter Kathy Gannon was badly injured when Anja was shot, and photographer Hatem Moussa severely wounded in the explosion in Gaza. Dozens more of their AP colleagues were beaten, arrested, detained and threatened as they worked to gather news.

Around the world, the ability of journalists to report the news is increasingly being threatened. Once welcomed as the voice of truth and fairness, journalists now are targets. At peril are the very people we depend on to serve as the public's independent eyewitness to history.

We mourn the loss of our colleagues and salute the courage of journalists everywhere

who put their lives at risk to tell all sides of the story.

AP announces two new directors, 10 incumbents at annual meeting

NEW YORK - Two new members were named and 10 incumbents were re-elected to The Associated Press board of directors, as announced at AP's annual meeting today at its New York headquarters.

Joining the board is Kirk Davis, CEO of GateHouse Media LLC and chief operating officer of New Media Investment Group (right), and Patrick J. Talamantes, president and CEO of The McClatchy Company.



Davis was appointed to his current position in February 2014 and served as COO of GateHouse since 2009. Gatehouse is one of the largest publishers of locally based print and online media in the United States. Previously, Davis was CEO of Enterprise NewsMedia, a multimedia company acquired by GateHouse in 2006.

Talamantes was previously McClatchy's vice president, finance, and chief financial officer from April 2001 to May 2012, responsible for the company's financial operations, information technology and shared business services. In May 2011, he assumed additional oversight of McClatchy's Florida newspapers, including the Miami Herald.

The 10 re-elected incumbents include:

- * Donna J. Barrett, president and CEO of Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. (CNHI).
- * Elizabeth Brenner, publisher of The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.
- * William Stacey Cowles, publisher of The Spokesman-Review and president of Cowles Company.
- * Terry J. Kroeger, president and CEO of BH Media Group, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, and publisher of The Omaha World-Herald.
- * Robin McKinney Martin, publisher of The Santa Fe New Mexican.
- * James M. Moroney III, chairman and CEO of A. H. Belo Corporation.
- * Bill Nutting, vice president of The Ogden Newspapers Inc.
- * David M. Paxton, president and CEO of Paxton Media Group.

* Steven R. Swartz, president and CEO of Hearst Corporation.

* Paul C. Tash, chairman and CEO of the Times Publishing Co.

The AP board has 20 directors. Directors are elected by members or appointed to the AP board. Each director is eligible to serve up to a total of nine years, although the chairman is exempt from that rule.

The 2014 AP Annual Report is available in digital format at: <http://www.ap.org/annual-report/2014>.

Connecting mailbox

Coping with legislative secrecy

Bill Kaczor ([Email](#)) - The story and picture of Tallahassee AP reporter Gary Fineout listening at the door of a closed meeting of the Florida House brought back memories of similar experiences, when legislative secrecy was even more pervasive than it is now. Until recent years, budget conference committees in Tallahassee, although open, were whisper sessions that left reporters questioning lawmakers afterwards to seek explanations of what just happened. Groups of lawmakers sometimes met in gaggles on the floor while the House or Senate was in session to cut deals and discuss strategy. That sometimes prompted me and other reporters to exit our glass-enclosed, soundproof press boxes in either chamber for the open public galleries to try to listen in. The photographic evidence is in this link:

<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/103259>

Lawmakers, though, also could, and still can, retreat into a glassed-in room known as "the bubble" at the back of the chamber to make deals out of sound if not sight, The only media allowed on the floor when a chamber is in session are still photographers, who have been known to pass on tidbits of overheard conversations.

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My connection to a Pulitzer

Marty Steinberg ([Email](#)) - My connection to a Pulitzer, actually make that Pulitzers? Taking dictation from the NYC staffer at Columbia U with the announcements while (at varying times) Lou Boccardi, Bill Ahearn, Darrell Christian, Jon Wolman and Mike Silverman hovered over my shoulders and watched every one of my key strokes.

(Sorry, couldn't resist sharing another side of P Days.)

Memories of the Steelcase desk



Tom Eblen ([Email](#)) - Sibby Christensen's item about the Steelcase tanker desk reminded me of the one just like it that I found in the Knoxville, Tenn., AP bureau when I took over as correspondent in 1981. I was only the third Knoxville correspondent since the 1940s. Matt Yancey had been there several years, and Escar Thompson was there for more than three decades before him.

Neither appeared to have ever cleaned out the desk, as I discovered when I attempted the task. Among the things I found shoved in the back of the drawers were the Knoxville newspapers proclaiming the end of World War II. They reveal the role of nearby Oak Ridge following the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. It was a first opportunity to report what everyone in "the city behind the fence" had actually been working.

Getting to see the Master's in person

Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - I got to cover so many wonderful and fulfilling events during my 41 years with AP. But there are always events that one longs to see that just seem out of reach for one reason or another. One such event was the Masters golf tournament. Over the years, I could only view the beauty of the Augusta layout on TV from whatever ballpark, stadium or racetrack I happened to be at the first or second week of April.

I retired in July 2009 and, when I thought about the Masters, it seemed like a long shot that I would ever get to see it in person. Tickets are hard to come by and generally out of my price range on the secondary market.



Then, in the fall of 2012, I happened to come across the Masters website and noted that they held a lottery each year to give a few thousand fans a chance to qualify to buy tickets to the event. I quickly applied and, just as quickly, forgot about it, assuming that it was like the Power Ball lottery, where I stood little chance of winning.

Much to my surprise, I got an email in December informing me that I had the opportunity to buy two tickets at face value (\$50 each) for the Tuesday practice session at Augusta. I quickly contacted my golf-loving brother-in-law in Florida, asking if he was interested in joining me for something special. Almost as quickly came the reply: YES!!!

The day before the much-anticipated practice session, we flew into Atlanta, rented a car and drove to Augusta. At dinner that night at an Augusta restaurant, we struck up conversations with numerous people, obviously Masters veterans from their overheard conversations, asking them for advice about parking, where to watch from and any other tidbit of info that would make our special day work well.

And it did. We arrived just before the gates opened at 8 a.m., found it to be easy and (surprise) free parking and walked into the main gate, a short hike away.

One small hitch. I had my tiny pocket knife, which is a no-no. Too far back to the car, so no more pocket knife. A small price to pay.

It was a beautiful, warm day and we decided to see the entire course, starting at No. 1 and walking the 18 while stopping at various vantage points to watch some of our favorite golfers.

What most people who watch on TV don't realize is how up and down Augusta Country Club is. The elevation changes are major and the walking can be tough, especially in hot weather. It was a tiring day, but very fulfilling.

The Masters may be the best organized sports event I've ever been to. The people who work there and volunteer couldn't be nicer and the cost of food and drink is amazingly low.

All in all, it was a fine way to knock an item off my longtime bucket list.

That evening, all we could talk about was how could we get back to the Masters in 2014. There had to be a way.

We both enlisted every family member and friend we could to apply to the lottery that fall. Amazingly, my brother, Rich, won two tickets for the same Tuesday practice session. He kindly gave me the tickets and my brother-in-law joined me again for another fabulous day.

I figured that was the end of our Masters experience but I got lucky again.

This time, I ran into a longtime acquaintance at a party and we started talking about his recent hole-in-one at Augusta, an awesome feat for an amateur. He happens to be a member at Augusta and I told him about my Masters visits and how much they meant to me.

I said, "I guess I'll never get to the tournament proper, though. It's too hard to get tickets."

His reply: "No it isn't."

I said, "Maybe for you."

He said, "If I remember to pay my dues, you can use my tickets next year."

I offered to call him once a day to remind him, but he said that wasn't necessary.

So, this year, my brother-in-law and I spent four glorious days in the sun at the Masters, watching virtually every minute of this special tournament at one of the greatest venues in all of sports.

I think I can now tick the Masters off my bucket list permanently because it would be hard to top what I've already experienced.

But taking another look at that bucket list, maybe it's on to the Kentucky Derby, which always ran on the weekend the Indianapolis Motor Speedway opened for Indy 500 practice, or perhaps the Grand Prix of Monaco.

Well, I can dream, can't I?

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Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - Suggesting another category for Connecting --The Best Scoop I had. I'm coming up on the anniversary of mine.

In 1979 Major League Baseball umpires went on strike, forcing the use of replacements. I was on the story and worked both sides daily. In the second week of May, the New York baseball writers threw a birthday party for Bob Fishel, longtime aide to Lee MacPhail, who was president of the American League and the top negotiator for baseball in the strike.

Fishel and MacPhail were longtime friends and when MacPhail wasn't at the party, I got suspicious. I called a source who told me the two sides had talked all night and reached agreement. The strike was over. Umps would be back in three days as soon as they voted. But both sides would deny it. I went to Wick Temple with what I had and he asked me if I trusted the source. I told him he had never lied to me and Wick decided to go with it. The adrenaline flowed as I typed ``The Associated Press learned."

UPI denied my story and I was scared but in the flow of ump's reactions, there was one, Jim Evans, who said ``Yeah, that's what I hear. We're going back." I wanted to hug him but he was in Texas and I was in NYC. Three days later the umps were back. It was the best scoop I ever had.

Politico: Phil Elliott leaves AP for Time

Phil Elliott is leaving the Associated Press for Time magazine, the On Media blog has learned.

Elliott will be a Washington correspondent, covering the 2016 election, Time editor Nancy Gibbs will announce in a memo to staff.

"As a National Politics Reporter at The Associated Press, Phil earned a reputation as a deeply sourced reporter with a record of breaking news. In the last month alone, he broke the news of Marco Rubio's entrance into the presidential race, questioned Rand Paul about his position on abortion and interviewed Mike Huckabee about how he would fund his likely campaign," Gibbs wrote. "During the 2012 campaign, Phil traveled to 44 states. In his nine years at the AP, Phil has covered every inch of presidential politics from straw polls in Ames, Iowa, to town meetings in Manchester, New Hampshire, to the comings and goings at the White House."

Elliott, who had been with the AP for nearly a decade, most recently covering "politics and trends," previously covered the White House, the 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns, and the 2006 and 2010 midterm elections for the wire service.

Elliott will join Time early next month.

Click [here](#) for a link to the story.

Welcome to Connecting



Chris Sullivan ([Email](#))

Viorel Urma ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

[The winner for the best Pulitzer Prize lead is...](#) (Poynter) (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

Let's say you walk into a bookstore with about \$25 in your pocket on the prowl for a good read. You pick up one volume, open to the beginning and read a short chapter called "Leaflets":

"At dusk they pour from the sky. They blow across the ramparts, turn cartwheels over rooftops, flutter into the ravines between houses. Entire streets swirl with them, flashing white against the cobbles. Urgent message to the inhabitants of this town, they say, Depart immediately to open country."

That's a fine opening, I would say. I like the setting, defined by action. I like the little mystery of what "they" are. I like the text within a text, suggesting a city under siege.

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[Fear of screwing up](#) (Columbia Journalism Review)

THAT COULD'VE BEEN ME.

If you heard about the retracted Rolling Stone rape story, you might have thought that to yourself when you considered its now disgraced reporter, Sabrina Rubin Erdely.

I know I did.

Erdely screwed up. Big time. We can tell ourselves she was always a terrible journalist, but she's had a strong career. We can tell ourselves our editors and fact-checkers will protect us-if we have them-but no system is foolproof. We can tell ourselves we'd never in a million years experience such a big lapse in judgment, but we know better.

That could've been you.

When we talk about what it takes to do our jobs well, we focus on ethics and process and hard-wired discipline.

But maybe what keeps journalists most in line is fear.

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Here are the 10 worst countries for journalists in 2015 (Quartz) (Shared by Sibby Christensen)

The Committee to Protect Journalists has released a ranking of the ten most-censored countries around the world. CPJ's methodology measures censorship by use of "a variety of benchmarks," including "the absence of privately owned or independent media, blocking of websites, restrictions on electronic recording and dissemination, license requirements to conduct journalism, restrictions on journalists' movements, monitoring of journalists by authorities, jamming of foreign broadcasts, and blocking of foreign correspondents." The organization will release its full annual report on Apr. 27.

Here are the ten worst violators of press freedom, according to the CPJ:

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Brian Williams wants back in as limbo drags on (CNN)

Brian Williams, Lester Holt and NBC News are locked in a lose-lose-lose scenario.

Williams, the longtime anchor of the "NBC Nightly News," has been on the bench for nearly three months, suspended amid a scandal over exaggerations about an Iraq War mission. He has grown increasingly frustrated by the situation, according to sources near to the situation.

He wants his position back and, more to the point, wants NBC to telegraph that he's coming back. "He's getting fed up," one supporter of Williams said on condition of anonymity.

But Williams is not allowed to air his unhappiness -- NBC has prohibited him from speaking publicly.

Meantime, NBC is also staying silent about its plans for Williams or its vaunted nightly

newscast.

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Very Little of the Money the WHCA Raises Goes to Scholarships (Washingtonian)

Between taking selfies with John McCain and laughing along nervously with the President, attendees at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner- this year on April 25- settle into polite silence each year for the awarding of scholarships to young journalists. This feel-good segment is one of the ways the WHCA gets to call itself a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, as it was officially designated in 2004- that's after Ozzy Osbourne first showed at the Washington Hilton but before Stephen Colbert's roast of George W. Bush made the dinner a traffic-paralyzing national spectacle.

Pardon us for a moment, however, while we make like journalists and follow the money. As the event's profile has risen, contributions to the association have jumped- from 2009 to 2013, the take increased by 162 percent, to \$532,555- but scholarship payouts have inched only 10 percent higher, according to the WHCA's tax filings. Put another way, the association spent almost 60 percent of its revenue on scholarships in 2009, but just 26 percent in 2013.

Some of the excess cash has gone to boost compensation of the group's longtime executive director, Julia Whiston- from \$40,000 a year in 2004 to a still-modest \$142,000- and to build up cash reserves. The association also says it has put \$100,000 into an endowment for future scholarships since its last filing. The WHCA isn't in danger of violating the law- the rules governing 501(c)(3)s are so broad that a band of ghost hunters in Memphis qualifies. Nobody is accusing anyone of tapping corporate slush funds: The organization's major donors are media homers like Fox's Bill O'Reilly and Politico.

But its donations-to-payouts ration causes Ken Berger, until recently CEO of the watchdog group Charity Navigator, to frown. "It appears," he says, "as if the organization is more concerned with its own self-perpetuation than a selfless assisting of others in need."

The Final Word

10 tricks to appear smart in meetings

Like everyone, appearing smart in meetings is my top priority. Sometimes this can be difficult if you start daydreaming about your next vacation, your next nap, or bacon. When this happens, it's good to have some fallback tricks to fall back on. Here are my 10 favorite tricks to quickly appear smart during meetings.

Click [here](#) for the story.

Today in History - April 23, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 23, the 113th day of 2015. There are 252 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 23, 2005, the recently created video-sharing website YouTube uploaded its first clip. Titled "Me at the Zoo," the video consisted of 18 seconds of YouTube co-founder Jawed Karim standing in front of an elephant enclosure at the San Diego Zoo, commenting on the animals' "really, really, really long, uh, trunks." (Today, YouTube claims more than 1 billion users and says that 300 hours of video are uploaded every minute.)

On this date:

In 1616, English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare, 52, died on what has been traditionally regarded as the anniversary of his birth in 1564.

In 1789, President-elect George Washington and his wife, Martha, moved into the first executive mansion, the Franklin House, in New York.

In 1791, the 15th president of the United States, James Buchanan, was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

In 1910, former President Theodore Roosevelt delivered his famous "Man in the Arena" speech at the Sorbonne in Paris.

In 1914, Chicago's Wrigley Field, then called Weeghman Park, hosted its first major league game as the Chicago Federals defeated the Kansas City Packers 9-1.

In 1935, Poland adopted a constitution which gave new powers to the presidency.

In 1940, about 200 people died in the Rhythm Night Club Fire in Natchez, Mississippi.

In 1954, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his 755 major-league home runs in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The Braves won, 7-5.)

In 1965, the Four Tops' single "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch)" was released by Motown.

In 1985, the Coca-Cola Co. announced it was changing the secret flavor formula for Coke (negative public reaction forced the company to resume selling the original version).

In 1995, sportscaster Howard Cosell died in New York at age 77.

In 2007, Boris Yeltsin, the first freely elected Russian president, died in Moscow at age 76.

Ten years ago: Leaders of China and Japan met in Jakarta, Indonesia, to try to settle their nations' worst dispute in three decades, but failed to reach an agreement in the bitter feud over Tokyo's handling of its World War II atrocities. Silvio Berlusconi was sworn in as head of Italy's 60th postwar government. Renowned British actor Sir John Mills died in Denham, England, at age 97.

Five years ago: Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed the nation's toughest illegal immigration law, saying "decades of inaction and misguided policy" had created a "dangerous and unacceptable situation"; opponents said the law would encourage discrimination against Hispanics. The Coast Guard suspended a three-day search for 11 workers missing after an explosion rocked the Deepwater Horizon oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico. Actress Sandra Bullock filed divorce papers in Austin, Texas, to end her five-year marriage to Jesse James.

One year ago: Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed a law allowing legally owned guns in bars without restriction and in some churches, schools and government buildings under certain circumstances. Facebook reported its earnings had nearly tripled and revenue had grown sharply in the first quarter, surpassing Wall Street's expectations. Mark Shand, 62, the brother-in-law of the Prince of Wales and a chairman of an elephant conservation group, died in New York after sustaining a serious head injury in a fall.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Alan Oppenheimer is 85. Actor David Birney is 76. Actor Lee Majors is 76. Hockey Hall of Famer Tony Esposito is 72. Irish nationalist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey is 68. Actress Blair Brown is 67. Writer-director Paul Brickman is 66. Actress Joyce DeWitt is 66. Actor James Russo is 62. Filmmaker-author Michael Moore is 61. Actress Judy Davis is 60. Actress Valerie Bertinelli is 55. Actor Craig Sheffer is 55. Actor-comedian-talk show host George Lopez is 54. Rock musician Gen is 51. U.S. Olympic gold medal skier Donna Weinbrecht is 50. Actress Melina Kanakaredes (kah-nah-KAH'-ree-deez) is 48. Rock musician Stan Frazier (Sugar Ray) is 47. Country musician Tim Womack (Sons of the Desert) is 47. Actor Scott Bairstow (BEHR'-stow) is 45. Actor-writer John Lutz is 42. Actor Barry Watson is 41. Rock musician Aaron Dessner (The National) is 39. Rock musician Bryce Dessner (The National) is 39. Actor-writer-comedian John Oliver is 38. Actor Kal Penn is 38. MLB All-Star Andruw Jones is 38. Actress Jaime King is 36. Pop singer Taio Cruz is 32. Actor Aaron Hill is 32. Actor Jesse Lee Soffer is 31. Actress Rachel Skarsten is 30. Singer-songwriter John Fullbright is 27. Tennis player Nicole Pietrangeli (vay-deh-SOH'-vuh) is 26. Actor Dev Patel (puh-TEHL') is 25. Actor Matthew Underwood is 25. Actor Camryn Walling is 25.

Thought for Today: "In the future everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes." - Andy Warhol, American pop artist (1928-1987).

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