

GLAAM Board of Directors

Official Minutes

September 3, 2016

Pilgrim Towers, 440 N. Madison Av., Pasadena

| | <i>Secretary</i> | <i>Delegate</i> | <i>Members-at-Large</i> |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mid-City | <i>vacant</i> | <i>vacant</i> | [X] Desiree Elliott |
| Coastal | [X] David Emery | [X] Madeline Walker | [X] Jonathan Elliott |
| SFV | [X] Joyce Hamilton | [/] Jerilyn Phippeny (11:07) | [X] Andrea Nolan |
| ELAC | [X] Michael Wong | [O] Michelle Froelich | [X] Gene Schneider |
| Hi-Desert | [/] Lindsay Ross (11:42) | [X] Bruce Smith | [X] Sandra Smith |
| Inland Empire | <i>vacant</i> | <i>vacant</i> | [X] Lee Stillman |

[X] = present for entire meeting, [/] = present for portion, [O] = absent with leave, [#] = consecutive unexcused absence(s)

Guests: Vickey Kalambakal, Brian Madsen (11:04), and Andrew Merenbach

I. Opening

- A. **Call to Order** -- by Chairman B Smith at 11:00am.
- B. **Approval of Agenda** -- Moved (S Smith/Hamilton) to approve the Agenda as submitted; carried 10/0/1.
- C. **Approval of Previous Minutes** – Moved (D Elliott/B Smith) to approve the Minutes as amended; carried 10/0/1.

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

1. Chairman:

- B Smith received letter from the National office soliciting bids from local groups interested in hosting Mind Games 2018.
- J Hobart tendered her resignation as Mid-City Secretary.

2. Treasurer:

- J Elliott reported he was notified during the month that the closing financials for the 2015-16 fiscal year were not submitted to our outside accountant for tax filing, as was done in several recent years by the chair of the Finance committee, so in response to the notification he took care of it personally.
- The checks which he issued this past month included \$2500 to the Mensa Foundation; last year's payment of \$1500 was expressly labeled as being for the Dave Felt Scholarship, but this time we had allocated an additional \$1000 for one or more scholarships to be named later, so this time the check simply read 'annual scholarship funding'.

- Reconciled records of the Hollywood Bowl receipts with those of Jonathan Cole, and agreed that we received a total of \$495 of gross income to pay for 55 tickets at the Saturday-night show, which is 38% higher than the budgetary projection.
- Have closed the consolidated ledger through end of June, and have posted the closing financial statements to the CC's list.

B. Area Reports

1. **Coastal:**

- Kalambakal had 12-13 attendees to her Sunday Salon event at the Alpine Village Steinhaus.
- Emery had a couple of regulars at his Happy Hour event.

2. **SFV:**

- Hamilton reported her 2 regular events.
- Phippeny held regularly scheduled Game Night; Happy Hour was cancelled. She added that she does not seem to be getting lots of RSVPs.

3. **ELAC:**

- Wong reported he was the sole attendee at his first 2 dining events, and that there were 4 attendees to the Gaming Party. D Elliott noted that starting at 5pm would work better than the scheduled noon time.

4. **Hi-Desert:**

- Schneider thanked Phippeny for posting all of her events on Facebook.
- Stated she may have found someone in Santa Clarita to take over as the local contact.
- She had 6 of the minimum 8 persons signed up for the Petroglyph tour.

5. **Inland Empire:**

- D Elliott reported that she met with some IE members to set up a combination testing event/Area meeting.
- Reaching out to the local college to acquire testing space; has completed all requirements to be a proctor for local test.

C. Members-at-Large

1. **D Elliott:**

- Revised timeline for GLAAM Youth Board: Invitations to go out in September to apply, with decisions to be made in October, with meetings to take place monthly from November-April. Curriculum being finalized. Location TBD.

D. Committees and Coordinators

1. **RVC:**

- D Elliott: National Board meeting Sept 15-18. On Agenda is a review of disciplinary procedures for American Mensa. The rules state that hosts are responsible for policing the behavior of attendees at events, and have the authority to ask unruly members to leave. We need to make sure we support our hosts in this regard.
- There is no middle path between removing someone from Mensa (a very difficult process) and doing nothing. A committee is being formed to look at alternatives.
- Membership surveys indicate 22-45-year-old singles would not recommend Mensa to friends and family; the lack of a formal Code of Conduct was cited as one reason.

2. **Bylaws:**

- J Elliott: We have a new item #27 on our 'laundry list', being to add more acceptable synonyms and acronyms for the name of our organization to article I, so watch for specific recommendations to be reported from the committee at some point.
- We have reached agreement that the filling of board vacancies during the May Board meeting should be all Area Secretaries first, then all Area Delegates, then all Members-at-Large.
- We also agree that within each Area section, the vacancies should be filled in increasing order by Area population, on the premise that the more populous areas theoretically had greater opportunities to fill their vacancies by petition, and that if they failed to do so then they should have slightly lower voting weight during the May Board meeting.
- We currently are undecided as to whether to recommend that any Area Secretaries appointed during the May Board meeting should not be allowed to vote for other area secretaries, that any Area Delegates appointed during the May Board meeting should not be allowed to vote for other Area Delegates, and that any Members-at-Large appointed during the May Board meeting should not be allowed to vote for other Members-at-Large, but we are considering the question, and will let you know later whether we achieve a consensus recommendation or not.

3. **Gifted Youth:**

- Walker: Some of our gifted youth are participating in the GY activities at the Orange County UN-G; this is the first time in recent memory that OC has had a GY track at their RG.
- Trying to get our assistants to each do one activity at our RG.

4. **Membership Outreach:**

- D Elliott: Area Secretaries and Delegates are urged to contact new members to their Areas.
- One attendee to Hollywood Bowl stated that her party was there specifically because they had been called and invited to come out.

5. Regional Gathering:

- D Elliott: The party that had booked the hotel for our regular weekend backed out, so we now have our regular weekend with 4-day schedule. Contract execution should take place early in week.
- Walker: trying to schedule a combination hotel tour/volunteer luncheon.
- J Elliott came up with the idea of partially subsidizing room nights for early registrants.

6. Scholarship:

- D Elliott: \$1000 GLAAM Scholarship open to graduates & undergrads in our geographic area.
- Jennifer Carter has all paperwork completed and sent to Kalambakal for publication.

7. Social Media:

- Phippeny: For the first time, all events posted to Facebook. All event hosts urged to join their event so that they can be added as co-hosts.
- Started creating a Gmail group for the BoD list; need list of other groups (CC's, etc.) to create. D Elliott suggested pulling the info from the inside back cover of newsletter for CC's list.

8. Special Events:

- Walker: We had an increase in the Hollywood Bowl participation over last year; thanks to Jonathan Cole for heading it up.
- September 10 – The Fantasticks at the Pasadena Playhouse, with 17 attendees, at least 13 of which will be having dinner at a nearby Mexican restaurant.
- September 25 – Hollywood Home Movies at the Old Town Music Hall combined with Sunday Salon dinner.
- Picnic on October 22.

9. Circulation:

- Madsen: Target met for this year. One complaint about receiving physical edition instead of just electronic.
- We are still getting returns from the Post Office.

10. Data Officer:

- Madsen: All reports up to date.

11. L.A. Mentary:

- Kalambakal: Wrote back to one unhappy customer about roster version, who was determined to be unserious.

12. MensaPhone:

- Schneider: There needs to be a notation on the website to call the MensaPhone first before trying other contacts.
- Walker: Got a phone call from a woman from Hungary who was going to Universal Studios and was looking for a Mensan companion to go with; there was too short of notice to accommodate her.

13. Open Forum:

- Ross: Speaker for August OF event designing Mars World in Las Vegas.
- Two high school students offered to volunteer with events.

14. Roster:

- Madsen: Despite complaints to the contrary, pleased with results.

15. SIGHT:

- Arlette Chew: We got one request from a Vermont member for hotel recommendations and one request from a member in France requesting only information on local Mensa events and other tourist information.
- Our visitor from Paris, Adrien Sicart, will be coming back to the LA area Sept. 8 for ten days following his adventure at Burning Man with the Mensa SIG there.
- Finally, we have a new Host volunteer in the Channel Islands, which is a nice change. (Jeudi, the national chairman, recognizes that the Channel Islands are not part of GLAAM, but that group has no SIGHT coordinator.)
- D Elliott: The visitor from France is believed to be the same person they met at the ELAC Gaming party.

16. Singles:

- Wong: Did the Skyslide and then went for drinks at the Westin Bonaventure. Going for museum visit next week. Plan to do Universal Studios in October for Halloween Horror Nights. Will be out of country for 2 months starting mid-November.

17. Webmaster:

- Merenbach: Finished updating the old RG pages, preserving all the old data while putting new headers and footers to match the look and feel of the rest of the site.

- The Calendar section still needs updating, will work with Madsen to ensure that the integrity is preserved while making it more user friendly.
- Will get with Walker to work on 2017 RG pages.
- Will put a notice on the website about the MensaPhone, what it is, and when it should be called.

III. New Business

A. Adult Oriented Special Interest Groups

Merenbach: A member attended an adult oriented program at the AG and was wondering if we had anything like it on the local level. There is a concern about having a SIG listing or regular Calendar event given that not all members are adults, and that the website listing is public facing. There is the possibility that people accessing the site from their work computers could be subject to filtration and blacklisting.

D Elliott: If someone went to the trouble of setting up an actual SIG, we would not censor, as long as they did not use profanity in the title or description or advocate illegal activity. In this case we would give it an Adults Only notation. If the SIG name or description got caught in filters we could look for a technical workaround.

Merenbach: Like to anticipate problems before they happen. If the individual goes ahead and form a SIG or recurring event, we could get 50 emails from people complain the site won't load, or we could get no problems at all.

The Board decided it is best to take a wait-and-see approach and revisit this if problems occur.

B. B. Roster Publishing in the September Newsletter

Kalambakal: Is it required for us to publish the roster?

D Elliott: Researched the question, could not find anything mandating it. The National rules state that if you do publish a roster, then you must follow the members' stated privacy preferences, but nothing saying you have to publish. Asked other RVCs; some groups in Florida have made the decision to stop publishing because that information is available on the website. Personal preference is to keep publishing on an annual basis to remind ourselves that we are a group of people, and it is a way for members to get in contact with each other.

J Elliott: We first published a roster in 1997; the rules were the same at that time. In 1999 we decided not to publish on that year. Like having the roster for Treasurer purposes. Having professional information in roster could be helpful.

Madsen: There are codes to suppress PDQ information, but we do not publish this anyways because there is no room in the roster to include it.

Merenbach: How about decoupling the roster from the newsletter. Have a searchable version online, and maybe publish separately for those who take the printed version of the newsletter.

Schneider: Concerned about people without access to computers or email. Use roster often for people's addresses and phone numbers.

Walker: Use the member directory online when looking for member information; sortable by area and other criteria. In favor of not publishing the roster.

D Elliott: It is less work to have it as part of the newsletter as otherwise we would have 13 publications in the year vs 12. We don't necessarily want something searchable as that would be easily mined for data. The current user interface for the member directory is not user friendly, and the jury is still out on the new one.

Item referred to Membership Committee for further discussion with report to be presented at the October Board meeting.

C. 2016-2017 Board Term Strategic Goal and Succession Plan

The Succession Planning Committee moved that the following language be adopted:

WHEREAS, the Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa Board is committed to maintaining in perpetuity the health of the organization at all levels; and

WHEREAS, the health of the organization is directly dependent upon the participation of the membership in volunteer roles; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the board to set a new Strategic Plan for each business year;

THEREFORE, let it be RESOLVED that:

The Strategic Goal for the 2016-2017 Board year is to create a detailed and sufficient Succession Plan for all volunteers to follow as a regular duty in the course of their tenures.

SUCCESSION PLAN.

INTRODUCTION.

The same small pool of volunteers has consistently performed the majority of the workload, and it is rarer than is to be desired that a new volunteer steps forward. It is the opinion of this Committee that it is possible to reverse this trend through concerted effort on the part of the existing volunteers.

The best place to recruit new volunteers is from new membership, while they are still energetic and looking forward to the benefits that their memberships can afford them. It is a psychological fact that people are more likely to become involved when they are made to feel welcomed and needed. It is a proven tenet of organizational membership and recruitment that new members or visitors are more likely to return and to increase their involvement level, if they are awarded a position and given a responsibility. This gives them a reason to return.

PLAN.

Therefore, this Committee recommends the following courses of action:

That each volunteer shall henceforth be responsible for the recruitment and training of his successor as part of his regular volunteer duties, from the outset of his term as a volunteer, no matter the capacity in which he serves;

That each volunteer shall make an active effort to reach out to new and reinstating members as they are added, within 30 calendar days of their initiation or reinstatement, for the purposes of welcoming them, inviting them to meetings, and encouraging them to be actively involved from the outset of their membership;

That each member who attends an event shall be approached, welcomed, encouraged, and gently recruited to accept the honor and excitement of performing a small duty to help the existing volunteer;

That the current volunteers shall henceforth nevermore complain or comment on how difficult it is to volunteer, how overworked they are, or in any other way disparage the act and idea of volunteering, with the result of scaring away new volunteers;

That every volunteer should plan from the INCEPTION of his volunteer career, to train an assistant and potential successor, so that in the undesirable and unfortunate possibility that accident or other event prevent him from carrying out his responsibilities as a volunteer, there is a replacement who is able to fill in temporarily or permanently, until a new regular volunteer can be recruited or trained, or the assistant decides to accept the duties of the volunteer office for the foreseeable future.

By April the current LocSec is responsible for ensuring that all chair and coordinator positions have a proposed successor to be appointed at the May Board meeting.

The motion was carried 11/1/1.

IV. Closing

- A. **Good of the Order** – Phippeny doing stand-up comedy on Sunday, September 11 at Flappers in Burbank.
- B. **Adjournment** -- Motion (D Elliott/Phippeny, 12/0/1) to adjourn approved at 1:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Stillman
Secretary