

# GLAAM Board of Directors

## Official Minutes

March 4, 2017

Pilgrim Towers, 440 N. Madison Av., Pasadena

|               | <i>Secretary</i>           | <i>Delegate</i>              | <i>Members-at-Large</i> |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mid-City      | [/] Vesper Burnett (11:04) | [/] Jordan Albert (11:04)    | [X] Desiree Elliott     |
| Coastal       | [X] David Emery            | [/] Madeline Walker (11:08)  | [X] Jonathan Elliott    |
| SFV           | [X] Joyce Hamilton         | [/] Jerilyn Phippeny (11:05) | [X] Andrea Nolan        |
| ELAC          | [O] Michael Wong           | <i>vacant</i>                | [O] Gene Schneider      |
| Hi-Desert     | [O] Lindsay Ross           | [O] 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: Jonathan Cole, Joshua Dresser (11:28), David Fenig, Vickey Kalambakal (11:10), Brian Madsen, Andrew Merenbach

### I. Opening

- A. **Call to Order** -- by Executive Vice Chair S Smith at 11:01am.
- B. **Approval of Agenda** – New Business items V-A added, Closing renumbered VI. Moved (Stillman/J Elliott) to approve as amended; carried 7/0/0.
- C. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
  1. January 7, 2017 – Moved (D Elliott/J Elliott) to approve as amended by Stillman incorporating changes to RVC Report; carried 9/0/0.
  2. February 4, 2017 – Moved (J Elliott/Stillman) to approve as submitted; carried 8/0/1.

### II. Reports

- A. Executive Officers
  1. **Chairman:**
    - B Smith, via email: As a Loc Sec report, I would like to say that despite record breaking bad weather, the RG was a fabulous experience. It reminded me of why we volunteer.
    - Working and playing with fellow Mensans is a great way to relax and enjoy smart, efficient work and conversation without having to limit our vocabulary or ideas. It was something that I had always done before I joined Mensa and didn't realize what a break it was when I met other people who thought and spoke like the high IQ do.
    - So, thank you all for the pleasure of your company.
  2. **Executive Vice Chair:**

- S Smith: I'm doing this.

### 3. **Treasurer:**

- J Elliott: Checked GLAAM mailbox 3 days before beginning of RG; it contained two new registrations.
- We did complete our presentation of "So, What the Heck is a 'Debit', Anyhow?" on the Sunday afternoon of the RG, again partly just to share the knowledge and partly to identify any possible successors; 6 people attended, and I got all their names.
- We conducted the annual election of Hollywood Bowl concerts at the Annual Business Meeting held during this past month's Regional Gathering; during this meeting, the attending membership authorized the addition of a second Saturday-night program to our schedule; the total gross cost of the season is now \$3,271.
- We moved into the new Storage facility directly following the recent RG, and I worked with Madeline and the office staff to complete the setup of our corporate account. Their administrative structure is a little confusing, one unusual element being that each renter must define as either an individual or a business, with no wiggle-room left for nonprofits; another unusual aspect is that the group's primary contact is listed in their system as the 'accountholder', even though the account is still in the name of the corporation.
- The storage locker actually turned out to be a couple of increments smaller than the advertised 5'x10', and we did not think that we were going to get everything in, so we considered upgrading to a larger locker, which we may yet do at some point; however, everything did manage to get in, many thanks to the strong arms and Tetris experience of David Emery, so the current plan is to remain in that same room for at least until the next RG.
- We closed the numbers for the 2017 RG, with the exception of a couple more refund requests which are dribbling in late; the figures as of Mar 3 are as follows: Net spending was \$5,758.28 as compared with the budgeted \$2,513 of net spending; part of the reason for the additional net-spending was the drop in walk-in attendance, suspected to be largely due to the weather, as described in the RG Chair's written report. Hotel expenses were over projection by about \$1000, but Hospitality came in under budget. RG Fund began at \$7,887.18 as of May 1, but has reduced to \$2,128.90 as of Mar 3. We will look further, but it may turn out to be necessary to ask GLAAM for another subsidy to start up the next RG.

## B. Area Reports

### 1. **Mid-City:**

- Burnett: Having our first foray into a Networking event for the Entertainment industry on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- I have already also put together a draft of my LGBTQ meetup, which will be twice a year.
- Still looking for a place for a regular monthly gathering.

## 2. Coastal:

- Emery: Did our meetup at Bigfoot West, which we thought was in Culver City, but is actually in Los Angeles. Next meetup will actually be in Culver City.
- Kalambakal: We have a February event that we're going to start calling "Blow Out The Oscars Night". We had 9 or 10 people come and we had a lovely time.
- Walker via email on 3/3: Vickey Kalambakal had a group of eight people for Sunday Salon on Feb. 26 at El Pollo Inka in Torrance. They nicknamed it "Blow off the Oscars Night." And the Oscars was able to blow themselves off without the help of the Sunday Salon. Several lively discussions and a good time were had by all.
- David Emery met a lot of new people by volunteering at the RG. He wrote a great article for the March L.A. Mentary explaining a lot about what goes on in the Coastal area.

## 3. SFV:

- Hamilton: We didn't have a regular SFV event because it coincided with the RG, which was in the SFV and was heavily attended by SFV members.
- Had a Thursday dinner at a popular venue (Prosecco in Toluca Lake), and did not receive any RSVPs and cancelled, but people came anyway and had a wonderful time.
- People have come to rely on email blasts.
- Phippeny: Attended the RG, with great success.

## 3. ELAC:

- D Elliott: Wong had a report on the RG in the Newsletter.

## C. Members-at-Large

### 1. J Elliott:

- I was approached by one of our past participants about this year's CultureQuest competition; I responded that I did not have time to organize a team this year, but would be willing to participate if someone else did the organizing.

### 2. Nolan:

- Talked to Tiffany Wright who spoke at the RG and said she would be happy to do it again.

D. Committees and Coordinators

1. **RVC:**

- D Elliott: The \$9 dues increase is on the Agenda for the March AMC meeting, on April 1. Also increasing are the Testing and Prior Evidence Review from \$40 to \$60.
- The Minimum Standard Bylaws and Model Bylaws have been updated by the National Bylaws Committee and they are up for approval at the April 1 meeting as well. The current motion is to not implement the changes until June to allow for local elections to be held under the old rules.
- Agenda and proposed Budget are available for viewing on the AML website.
- Proposed Budget does not have Actual numbers from previous years, so not in favor.
- There will be a webinar (not yet scheduled) from National Treasurer to go over the Budget in detail.
- Under Web Services expense there is a dues and subscription increase to add higherlogic.com, a service providing document review, volunteer tracking, et al.
- Please take recent Membership Survey to convey your feelings to National Office. Previous surveys have shown the Region 9 has had a higher Satisfaction rate than the National average.
- San Diego is having an RG in May in the Palm Springs area. Hawaii RG is in early October.
- National membership down 483 members in January from 2016. Region 9 down as well.
- Lack of a National Code of Conduct seems to be a cause for concern.

2. **Awards:**

- J Elliott: At the Historian's request, looked around our house and garage for the box containing Mary Kimball's plaques and other non-newsletter memorabilia, and as expected did not find it; again, our best recollection is that we returned it to the Historian once we discovered that it did not contain the newsletter copies that we were looking for.
- We presented the Awards for the 2015-16 award year at the February RG. Again now planning to present for the 2016-17 award year at a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon to be conducted after the Board meeting on the first Saturday of April; future annual presentations to continue at such events in April thereafter.

3. **Bylaws:**

- J Elliott: Began our 3rd pass through the remaining items in our 'laundry list' of proposed changes; aiming to have all remaining

proposals ready for consideration by the Board at the April meeting, so that we can implement any approved changes during the month of April, and so that I can retire as Committee Chair as of the end of the Board term, and so that the incoming Chair would need to worry only about shepherding the Bylaws ballot the rest of the way through the process as designated, and about the regular updates which will need to be made to the Motions Catalogs.

- Regarding our 'laundry list' item #5, on the subject of Residency, we have found that Motion #2013-015 satisfactorily defines the term 'residency' as used in our Bylaws, and that no further action is needed on that point.
- Regarding the same 'laundry list' item, we also considered and rejected a proposal which would have removed Residency as a requirement for all Area Representatives.
- We considered two different questions in the course of our item #14, the first of which being a suggestion that we trim the language in article iii about membership eligibility, which suggestion we rejected on legal grounds, feeling that as a separate corporation we need to make it clear that our memberships are assigned by national and not internally.
- 2nd aspect of item #14 was about the holding of official positions by non-mensans, where we considered dropping the language in Article III about the "business affairs" of GLAAM on grounds that it is allegedly too vague, but finding by majority that vagueness is better than the underinclusivity which might result if we were to drop the language.
- We have also retired item #17 from our 'laundry list', which was about what happens when a voter lapses on 3/31, and we don't find out about it until after the ballot counting; turning out now to be a moot point because according to our intrepid Data Officer national with all its data-related problems is yet now able to get us the relevant information on memberships prior to the ballot counting.
- Pursuant to our item #18 regarding updating to conform with the latest Minimum Standard Bylaws, the national Mensa board is also meeting on the date of our April Board Meeting, with an item on its agenda to consider making one or more changes to the Minimum Standard Bylaws, so we need to see what they come up with before we figure out what we need to do and when we can do it.
- In our item #25, we entertained a suggestion to change the petition deadline, but it turned out that no change was actually needed for any reason, so no action taken.
- Pursuant to our item #3, we have agreed upon a proposed Bylaws amendment which would allow the Board to remove a Board member in the middle of a term, provided that one or more causes

are specified in the motion to remove; specific proposal will be appearing in the April Agenda.

- Our item #12 is to update the Guidelines for all volunteer positions as needed, because some of them really need some help, and some even refer to positions which do not exist anymore. Current plan is to post the current versions of the various Guideline sections on the CC's list, and ask for draft rewrites from the most recent volunteer in each position who has been in that position for at least a full year, and also invite additional suggestions from anybody else who may care to offer them. Submission had been on hold because we were waiting to see whether national was going to produce some local officer handbooks which would supersede our local preferences, but the RVC advises that the "process is going to be a bit longer", so look for that to be coming soon.

#### 4. **Elections:**

- Fenig: Brought copies of Election Reports and Official Ballot. Phippeny has submitted petitions for SFV Secretary. As a result, the SFV Delegate position will be declared vacant at the May Board meeting and can be filled.
- This will be the first election since 2012 when the Guidelines were changed by the Board to allow vote by email. Voting allowed by mail, by email (membership number required), and in person at the April Picnic where the votes will be counted.
- [D Elliott noted that email balloting would not be confidential. Fenig agreed to state that on the official ballot.]

#### 5. **Gifted Youth:**

- Walker: I sent a blast to the GLAAM teens about another TV show that is casting. Later the guy mentioned that he had talked to "Victoria L." That must be Victoria Liguez, Marketing Manager on the Mensa Office Staff. Am I supposed to talk to her before sending a blurb out?
- [D Elliott urged the items like this be vetted through the National office because opportunities often arise as a result]
- Michelle Freeman is eager to organize several activities for the GLAAM Gifted Youth group. In order to have good events, most of the venues require deposits, with the balance due at the event. She has two requests:
  1. Have GLAAM subsidize some amount of Youth events – either several partial subsidies or one large subsidy per year. Her point is that with almost 300 dues-paying youth members, some of that should be spent on Youth events.
  2. Have GLAAM pay the needed amounts without her having to fund them and get reimbursed. She requests either –

- a. Open an account for the Youth group and let her use a debit card.
- b. Have the treasurer send a check or call in a card number to the venue for the deposit, and somehow have GLAAM pay the balance when due.
- [D Elliott suggested discussion be moved to Finance Committee for consideration.]
- Moved (Stillman/Phippeny) to add item V-B “Funding of Gifted Youth Activity” to Agenda; carried 10/1/0.

#### 6. **Membership Outreach:**

- D Elliott: We have added 144 new members to the chapter.
- GLAAM membership down from last year.
- Electronic reminders of dues invoices have gone out, but not all mail invoices have.
- Board members urged to go to National website to check officers listing to make sure they are listed on the site.

#### 7. **Regional Gathering:**

- Walker: Jonathan Elliott will report the financial results of the RG. We ended up in the hole for several reasons:
  1. The hotel costs went up from \$6800 because we had to pay \$400 (\$100 per day) to bring in our own food.
  2. The hotel cost also went up \$300 because we needed one more room open on Monday (the Game room) than the original contract had counted on.
  3. We had to pay for speakers and volunteers parking. I’m not sure if this got into our estimate.
  4. On Friday, the strongest rainstorm in – forever? – hit the area, keeping walk-in numbers low for the entire event. We planned on 25 walk-ins, and got 2, losing about \$2,000.
  5. The hotel guest room nights were more expensive than our chapter members were accustomed to, keeping some people away. This year they were \$168 plus tax, as opposed to \$109 plus tax last year at Ayres Ontario.
- Nevertheless, it was a great RG, with lots of terrific speakers and entertainment (thanks to Jerilyn), great food (thanks to Desiree, Michael and Lee S.), and lots of terrific volunteers. The Kids Track also went very well, with two tracks during Sunday afternoon.
- Our Marriott sales rep says that the available weekends are February 9-11 and March 2-4. He wants to know if he can place either weekend on a tentative hold. In order to get the same guest room rates, we may have to add a meal from the hotel (Saturday dinner or Sunday brunch) at an extra fee to our attendees.
- Moved (D Elliott/J Elliott) to amend the Agenda to add item V-C “RG 2018”; carried 11/0/0.

**8. Social Media:**

- Phippeny: We were unable to get all the events published to Facebook this month but we anticipate being back on schedule for April.

**9. Special Events:**

- Cole: We bought tickets for 5 events, 3 midweek and 2 Saturday events.
- Saturday events are opening night, June 17, with the Moody Blues, and the last Saturday, September 9, with the Muppets.
- D Elliott: midweek events are August 1, August 8, and September 5.
- Walker: Picnic is April 22.
- Dodgers-Reds game June 10. Be there at 5:00 for the Old-Timers game.

**10. L.A. Mentary:**

- Kalambakal: The election will be in the April newsletter.

**11. Circulation:**

- Madsen: We are in good shape – there is money in the account, the newsletter got out on time.

**12. SIGHT:**

- Arlette Chew, via email: We had a visitor from Lyon, France, Feb. 22-25. He and I spent Friday exploring Olvera St., Beverly Hills, and Santa Monica. Since he's a pilot with Air France, he'll probably return, and I gave him information about gaining access to the US Mensa website, where he's interested in joining especially SIGs related to gifted children and aviation.

**13. Calendar:**

- Madsen: If July looks empty, note that there are 5 Saturdays in July, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday currently has nothing on the schedule.

**14. Webmaster:**

- Merenbach: The blog continues to grow, and Kalambakal has been good about sending Newsletter articles over to go on the website.
- Working with J Elliott to improve the overall design of the site.
- Online RG registration seemed to work well.

**15. Young Ms:**

- Jennifer Carter, via email: Esteemed GLAAM Board members, as the host of the monthly Young Ms event, I'm writing to report on



the Young Ms activity from March 9, 2016 to the current date. Since May of 2011, I have hosted the Young Ms meeting in my apartment or another private residence. Since I last reported in March of 2016, meeting attendance has been steady with about 10 members who regularly attend meetings coming most months. The Young Ms group remains closely knit, from years of getting to know one another at meetings and through Facebook interaction: we support one another's various endeavors, celebrate birthdays together, and call on one another for help when we need it. Some of the more introverted members and young parents I see outside of the Young Ms meetings: we'll meet for coffee, play games at someone's house, etc. Many of us reconvened at the AG in San Diego, and many either attended the RG for the first time thereafter, and/or have booked flights for the AG in Hollywood, Florida.

- Members learned about the scheduled Young Ms meeting primarily on Facebook. I post announcements about the meeting several days prior, and ask members to confirm attendance on the page there. It is infrequently that I see someone at the meeting who has not contacted me on Facebook, though several members who aren't on Facebook correspond with me by email or texting. Tallying RSVPs on Facebook also gives me the information I need to plan the meetings: what members want to eat, who will arrive late or need directions, etc.
- Unfortunately, I am no longer able to continue hosting the Young Ms meeting or coordinate activities. I got engaged in December to another Mensa member (Steven Wise; not a dues paying member since he was 15, but the co-host of the Young Ms meeting anyway), and we are currently planning our July 2017 wedding, and anticipated June 2017 move to Seattle, Washington. I will ask interested Young Ms to contact GLAAM's Board about coordinating future Young Ms activities.
- So, thank you Board members, for supporting my efforts over the years to rally the Young Ms to form an active social group, and special thanks to Dez, for encouraging me initially, to Jonathan for the timely reimbursements, and to Brian for calendar reminders and advice. I'm glad to have had a part in starting something lasting in GLAAM. Expenses are accounted for in the enclosed receipts, and thank you for your time and attention. Sincerely, Jennifer Carter.

#### 16. Data Officer:

- Madsen: I have 2 tasks ahead of me: one of which is to update the GLAAM Announcement list, which hasn't changed since November, and sending to the Area officers membership updates for their areas. Asking Board which to do first.

- [D Elliott requested doing the Announce list first.]

### III. Unfinished Business

#### A. Roster Publication in the September Newsletter

D Elliott reported that she has initiated discussion with all those who requested to be part of it. Closing report in May, or earlier if news develops.

### V. New Business

#### A. Mensa Cares! Community Service Initiative

D Elliott: Mensa Cares! Is the National community service initiative for local group to plan an activity on or about April 29. Event scheduled at the Los Angeles Food Bank for April 29 by Jennifer Carter. Request GLAAM front the money for \$10 Mensa Cares! T-shirt purchases for the event. Moved (D Elliott/Stillman) that GLAAM subsidize for the volunteers for the community service project on April 29, 2017, that we pay for their \$10 t-shirt if they are committed to volunteering for the event; carried 11/0/0.

#### B. Funding of Gifted Youth Activity

Walker: Michelle Freeman has an event planned for May 20 at the Corbin Bowl in Woodland Hills for Gifted Youth. Moved (D Elliott/Phippeny) to allocate early for the May event at the Corbin Bowl for Gifted Youth \$500; carried 11/0/0.

#### C. RG 2018

D Elliott: The Burbank Marriott gave us dates for 2018 on Feb 9-11 or Mar 2-4. March is bad because it is the dates of SnowBall, the biggest RG on the East Coast. Even if we move the date to earlier, we still want to keep the Monday, because Sunday suffers if Monday is eliminated. Moved (Phippeny/Walker) that we empower the RG Chair and Committee to make a placeholder bid for the hotel for the 2018 RG from February 9-12; carried 5/3/3.

### VI. Closing

- A. **Good of the Order** – Phippeny introduced Joshua Dresser, who is interested in serving. D Elliott urged the Board members to attempt to run the reports they are entitled to. Stillman announced that he will be having shoulder surgery and will be on the shelf for an as yet unspecified amount of time. Walker announced an upcoming vacation, and that her daughter is engaged to be married. Fenig urged everyone to verify their National email address.
- B. **Adjournment** -- Motion (Phippeny/Stillman, 11/0/0) to adjourn approved at 1:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee Stillman  
Secretary