

GLAAM Board of Directors

Official Minutes

August 5, 2017

Pilgrim Towers, 440 N. Madison Av., Pasadena

	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Delegate</i>	<i>Members-at-Large</i>
Mid-City	[X] Vesper Burnett	[X] Jordan Albert	[/] Jonathan Elliott (11:04)
Coastal	[O] David Emery	[X] Madeline Walker	[1] Nikki Frey
SFV	[X] Jerilyn Phippeny	[X] Charlie Mahoney	[X] Andrea Nolan
ELAC	[/] Michael Wong (11:06)	<i>vacant</i>	[/] Gene Schneider (11:04)
Hi-Desert	[/] Lindsay Ross (11:45)	[X] Bruce Smith	[O] 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)

I. Opening

- A. **Call to Order** -- by Chairman B Smith at 11:02am.
- B. **Approval of Agenda** – Agenda amended (B Smith) to include New Business V-A Inland Empire Discussion. Moved (B Smith/Phippeny) to approve as amended; carried 8/0/0.
- C. **Approval of Previous Minutes** – Moved (Phippeny/Walker) to approve; carried 10/0/0.

II. Reports

- A. Executive Officers
 1. **Chairman:**
 - B Smith: The Copper Black Award for “Inventive, Innovative Use of Problem Solving Technology” has been awarded to Natalie Hampton, who resides in the GLAAM area, for creating a social media app to combat bullying. This seems like an excellent opportunity for us to get some good publicity for the chapter.
 2. **Secretary:**
 - Stillman: Apologies to all for getting the Agenda out late.
 3. **Treasurer:**
 - Elliott: Checked GLAAM mailbox on 8/3, included 7 checks for the RG, 1 of which came from Roy Ball, whose cover note included the curious salutation of "Dear Sirs".
 - Behind schedule with the May and June closings, because still have way too many other things which need doing.
- B. Area Reports

1. **Coastal:**

- Emery: I am sorry to say that I must resign my position as Coastal Secretary. My wife took a job in Connecticut and we are finalizing our move this weekend. I wanted to be there in person today to say this, but I have too much left to do to get this condo emptied and cleaned.
- This past month, Coastal had another visit to the Museum of Jurassic Technology. We also visited a bar with an amazing mixologist (Oldfield's). One guest attended. We also had the go carting as normal. For August, we're going to the Panorama downtown and to a new bar in Torrance. The panorama has garnered some interest and I have had two members let me know they plan to come.
- Walker: Everyone is encouraged to attend one of the two functions this weekend to give David a warm farewell.
- Sunday Salon on July 25 at the Hakata Ramen in Gardena had 10 people, including two new couples. Interesting place - besides the "build your own" ramen bowls, when anyone new enters from the front door, the whole crew shouts a greeting together in Japanese that none of us could understand. Not much for vegetarians.

3. **SFV:**

- Phippeny: Had a very successful party with good attendance, and ventured outside the North Hollywood area, with two Mensa members who had never before attended an event.
- Had a successful Happy Hour as well, though there has been some confusion regarding event scheduling.
- Mahoney: Thursday Dinner had 5 people, including my mom, who was in town.

4. **Hi-Desert:**

- Schneider: Have yet to apply for the Petroglyph Tour because it's unsure which weekend we want to have the event.

5. **ELAC:**

- Wong: Went to the Asylum Escape Room with 6 people, and survived with time to spare.
- ELAC Gaming Party had 9 attendees.
- September Dim Sum and Movie events will not be held as I will be out of town.

C. **Members-at-Large**

1. **Elliott:**

- A2E meetings have been progressing regularly, with our new quorum requirement of one, and we had a recent attendee who was under age 18 and who had joined Mensa only 3 days earlier, so we

communicated with Madeline and Desiree to make sure that we were handling the situation appropriately, including by making sure that a parent was present for supervision, and that the parent signed our record book for evidence of his presence.

- Had a really fun time at the AG in Florida, extensive further observations available upon request.

2. Nolan:

- Continuing the quest to find new members. This doesn't seem to be unique to Mensa, but a problem for all groups.
- [Phippeny added she had ordered some recruitment business cards from National.]
- [Schneider noted that she has some Mensa bookmarks that could be useful.]

3. Stillman:

- Putting together an event for the Southern California Firehouse community on September 3, at Carole Lane's house in Vista, which is in north San Diego County.

D. Committees and Coordinators

1. RVC:

- Wong: Phoenix placed third in CultureQuest, and got scholarship money as a result.
- Got Emerald Level on the Ace Awards. We got dinged on testing, but it is unclear what the other criteria were. National says they are working on being more transparent.
- Need to appoint four positions: Regional Scholarship Chair, Regional Membership Officer, Regional Webmaster, and Regional Social Media Chair. Emails to OC and Phoenix have not yet been answered.
- There is talk of requiring each Region to have two Gen Y Coordinators. There's already a SIG for this and National should not be interfering with SIGs.
- Will be at AMC meeting in Dallas in September.

2. Bylaws:

- D Elliott (via text): We have set up Slack for the bylaws group and now have all guidelines and the full guidelines document in Google docs for the committee to work on in the coming year.
- There appears to be a permission issue we are still straightening out, but now anyone on the committee can easily access and see the status of where we are at and comment directly.

3. Gifted Youth:

- Walker: Michelle and Selwyn Freeman, who both took the background check, have been running some events for the young Mensa children that have been very successful. Some of the events are a little expensive, so they have been using the money from last year's treasury to subsidize part of the fees. We will be giving them another stipend for this year, and they are working on the form to get a grant for youth activities from Mensa.
- Yvette Joffe ran a game night for Mensa Teens. There were 9 teens and they had a great time.
- I just sent a note to all the Assistant GYC's and Parent Volunteers (all background checked) to start planning activities for the youth at the RG in February.

4. **Membership Outreach:**

- D Elliott (via text): Currently we have 1893. We participated in the lapsed member mailing, but I did not get a "report" of how many actual members received the email, but we have 389 lapsed members from last year and the \$0.50 per member contacted will be less than that number. I advised Bruce and Jonathan re details and copied them on my report to National.
- Madsen (via email): At an LDW at the AG, I learned that the Email Your Members tool is working now. However, it doesn't work for Area representatives and it doesn't allow attachments to be included, so probably isn't an ideal solution for our group, which is why I'm not recommending that we disband our announcement lists. On the other hand, it produces official-looking emails with a Mensa banner, which we don't do. I would like to see us move to using it as much as possible, as soon as possible. And in my opinion, we shouldn't be sending attachments with our announcements anyhow. I think the one deal-breaker at the moment is the fact that Area reps can't use it to send emails to their areas. It is my understanding that this is on the horizon. Once that becomes available, I will recommend using it for everything (even though doing so doesn't allow attachments), and disbanding the announcement lists we're currently using. But we're not there yet.

5. **Regional Gathering:**

- Walker: Alma Munro, our new webmaster, has been working on the RG website. She had the first draft up on August 1, which is the date advertised for people to sign up for the Early Bird registration pricing (which goes until August 31). She is still having some trouble with the Paypal option, and will get some help from Andrew.
- Lee Stillman and Craig Lancaster have been making plans for the Hospitality room.

- Vickey Kalambakal will be Registrar again and Jonathan Elliott will be Treasurer again this year.
- Jerilyn Phippeny is working on the schedule and has asked for all speaker submissions to be sent to her by October 31.
- David Ilan will be doing the program booklet again this year.

6. Scholarship:

- Stillman: National now recognizes me as Scholarship Chair and has provided links to resources that I will go through as needed.

7. Social Media:

- Phippeny: All August activities were posted on Facebook in a timely manner, and we have started on September.
- In favor of migrating everything to Slack for messaging.
- Madsen (via email): Facebook recently added a feature to groups that lets us request answers to questions from people who want to join. (This is another thing I learned about at an LDW at the AG.) I have added questions to our group, asking people how they are connected to Mensa. This makes the job of confirming membership a whole lot easier, and I'm happy that feature exists.

8. Special Events:

- Walker: Hollywood Bowl - Jonathan Cole reports:
- For August 1, 12 people took their tickets from him, 14 tickets were left at Will Call, (so he does not know whether they showed up or not), and 9 tickets were left over, which have been destroyed. He had many last minute cancellations, which he tried to fill with the long Wait List, but was disappointed in the lack of turn-out. Some SoCal areas had thunderstorms, which may have effected some people. Spending the money on tickets contributed to one of the chapter's goals, but it would be nicer to see the tickets used.
- August 8 is fully booked, with 15 folks on the Wait List.
- September 5 is fully booked, with 10 folks on the Wait List.
- September 9 (Muppets) has 15 out of 70 tickets remaining.
- Long Beach Clean-up Saturday, August 19 10-10:30 am, hosted by Denise Bloomfield.
- Magic Castle in Hollywood September 3 - First brunch at 10:30 am - 80 reservations (15 more available) in the main dining area, and Second brunch at noon - 9 reservations in the special Houdini room (up to 3 more available).
- Hamilton at the Pantages on September 14 and October 3, total 47 seats split between the two dates
- GLAAM Picnic Saturday, September 23 in Griffith Park. Open to all.
- Aladdin at the Pantages Sunday March 25 - So far 16.

- Madsen (via email): The Picnic in Griffith Park is on the calendar in September.
- Also at an LDW at the AG, I learned that we can request professional-looking, freestanding upright banners from the national office, tailored to our local group. The national office will give us one for free, and subsequent ones for about \$100, as long as we take a picture of it at one of our events to show that we've made use of it. I'm thinking this would be a good thing to have at the RG (and potentially at the Griffith Park picnics, although I worry that it might blow over with a gust of wind), and I think we should look into requesting one for ourselves. Like I say, the first one's free, so why not?
- Are we aware that the national office will send emails (similar to the "Email Your Members" thing) to an entire region, on our behalf? It occurs to me that this could be a useful way to advertise our RG when the time is right. (This is yet another thing I learned at an LDW at the AG.)

9. Mensa Testing:

- D Elliott (via text): We are still looking for more proctors. We just got David Emery trained and admitted as a proctor, but he is departing for Connecticut, so we are back to where we started.
- However, testing continues at the same rate as we have been going, but I am looking for another regular Pasadena location and extra locations in other areas that we can start more regular testing at.
- Schneider: Need help coordinating Hi-Desert locations for National Testing Day in October.

10. Calendar:

- Madsen (via email): All is well.

11. Circulation:

- Madsen (via email): The August newsletter circulated successfully, on time.

12. Data:

- Madsen (via email): At Jerilyn's request, I gave her member data for her Area.
- As I've said previously, I stand ready to do the same for other Areas, Chairs and Committees. Let me know what you need.

13. SIGs:

- Madsen (via email): Also at an LDW at the AG, I spent time with national office staff explaining how useful it used to be to get PDQ interest data as part of the e-Distribution, so that we could search for people with an interest in, say, classical music, and then

contact those people to let them know when someone wants to start a Classical Music SIG. I've learned that they have it on their radar to give us that information, but first they want to address their own concern that the list of available PDQ interests is out of date, and that members don't tend to keep theirs up to date, and so that information may not be as useful as we think. In the meantime, they've offered to work with me if I ever want to contact people with a given interest. They'll even contact members on our behalf. That's great news ... or will be, once someone expresses an interest in starting a SIG.

14. L.A Mentary:

- Kalambakal (via email): Karen Star is filling in as our Layout Editor this month as we prepare the September L.A. Mentary. Toni Hansen is taking a road trip, chasing the eclipse this month, but she'll be back to take up the Layout Editor's job next month.
- The emerald jewel was supposed to appear both on our front cover in August, and on page 23. We are embarrassed that it did not appear in the print version (it does show up clearly in the online edition), and we will make sure the problem doesn't recur. We want the jewel to appear on our front cover for the next year, since we all earned it.

15. Open Forum:

- Ross: Had 20 people for a nice picnic in Holmby Park on Beverly Glen.
- Nolan: Everyone seemed to have a good time.

14. Public Relations:

- B Smith: We want to honor the Copper Black recipient, Natalie Hampton, at the picnic in September.

III. Special Orders

A. Filling of Vacant Board Positions

1. Coastal Secretary

- Announcement must run in the newsletter for 30 days before it can be filled. Earliest available date is the October meeting.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Bylaws Discussion

D Elliott (via text): The Agenda actually had the main point: we are required to include in our bylaws now a definitive statement about remote participation at our Board meetings. We allow it for special board meetings. We currently have no parameters for regular Board Meetings. Our choices:

- 1) statement that we do not allow Remote Participation.
- 2) statement that we do allow remote participation.

3) (my recommendation): Statement that says: Remote Participation at Board Meetings is generally discouraged, but under specific guidelines and parameters approved by the GLAAM Board of Directors, it may be permitted. This allows us to get this out of the bylaws which is hard to change and puts it into the Board's hands where different technology or special volunteers may make us want to allow for it. I request the Board discuss this at the meeting and then someone report back to me the sense of the Board. (No formal motion required at this time as whatever is decided will still have to be formally voted on down the road.)

Stillman in favor of Option 3, with the insertion of “and subject to revision” after the word “approved”. Elliott in favor of Option 1, for fear that remote participation will be used (or abused) and that meetings are more productive when people are actually present. Does not like the terminology “generally discouraged”. Schneider opts for #1. Phippeny likes a modified #3 to foster participation on the Board. Nolan likes #3 in special circumstances. Albert pointed out that our current location is technologically unsuited for full participation. Elliott added that physical attendance demonstrates a willingness to follow through on the commitments that people have made. Burnett favors a modified #3. Wong prefers #1. Ross prefers #2. B Smith noted that National pays for people to meet face to face, so there is obvious value in that. He also worried about the decision to allow remote participation to be used against disfavored individuals or groups on the board. Phippeny added that the technology to properly do things remotely may not exist now, but will soon enough. Item referred back to Bylaws Committee for further discussion.

V. New Business

A. Inland Empire Discussion

B Smith: Nobody has stepped forward to organize activities. The question exists as to whether to maintain IE as a separate Area or subsume it into Hi-Desert and ELAC. Schneider pointed out that questionnaires were going to be sent out and that we can't really do anything until that happens. Walker and Elliott noted there was over \$4000 in the treasury earmarked for the IE for over two years. Elliott expressed that without a map of the area and the geography involved he could not form an opinion. Schneider noted that the Victor Valley area is closer to several Hi-Desert areas than they are to each other. B Smith concluded that without a map and questionnaire there is nothing more to discuss at this point.

VI. Closing

- A. **Good of the Order** – Phippeny announced she got a job as a web developer.
- B. **Adjournment** -- Motion (Phippeny/Stillman, 12/0/0) to adjourn approved at 12:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Stillman
Secretary