

GLAAM Board of Directors

Official Minutes

October 7, 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	[X] Jonathan Elliott
Coastal	<i>vacant</i>	[O] Madeline Walker	[3] Nikki Frey
SFV	[X] Jerilyn Phippeny	[O] Charlie Mahoney	[X] Andrea Nolan
ELAC	[O] Michael Wong	<i>vacant</i>	[X] Gene Schneider
Hi-Desert	[O] Lindsay Ross	[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)

Guests: Vickey Kalambakal (11:22), Brian Madsen

I. Opening

- A. **Call to Order** -- by Chairman B Smith at 11:04am.
- B. **Approval of Agenda** – Moved (Phippeny/Schneider) to approve; carried 8/0/0.
- C. **Approval of Previous Minutes** – Moved (Phippeny/ Schneider) to approve; carried 8/0/0.

II. Reports

- A. Executive Officers
 1. **Chairman:**
 - B Smith: Natalie Hampton received the Copper Black Award at the picnic.
 2. **Treasurer:**
 - Elliott: No response having been received from the CC's list on the recent unauthorized SoCal-Edison deduction from the RG bank account, contacted the bank to reverse it. They recommended as a matter of standard practice that we close the account, but we hesitated to do so, because we have checks and debit cards and authorization forms and a PayPal connection out there which would all need to be redone, but they also suggested as an alternative that we could simply block SoCal Edison from placing any more charges on the account. Wrote to Madeline to ask for her advice, which was to proceed with blocking SoCal Edison, but otherwise to leave the account in place for now and continue monitoring for any further unauthorized activity, so we thus proceeded.

- Received the claim form from the bank to request initiation of research on the unauthorized deduction. Promptly completed the claim form and returned it. Bank gave us a temporary credit of the \$300 deduction pending completion of their investigation.
- Did call Chase bank to attempt to have SoCal Edison blocked permanently from being able to place any further charges on our account. But, according to customer service rep Portia (who did ask her team for verification while the call was on hold), our only options are (1) to block any payments from that vendor of exactly that amount, (2) to block all automatic payments within a certain range (but such a stop would affect any legitimate payments going to legitimate vendors), (3) to close the account, and (4) to take no further action until additional transactions hit our account. The stop-payments would cost \$30, which seems satisfactory if they accomplish what we want, namely to block any further payments from that particular vendor, but as it is the actions would be unsatisfactory, because that vendor could place a deduction on our bill for some different amount up to and including infinity, and because placing a stop on a certain range of transactions could affect our legitimate business needs. Therefore asked the Secretary to place an item on the Agenda for 'Security on the RG bank account', so that the entire available team could discuss the options and collectively decide upon the best course.
- With thanks to wife Desiree's intercession, we have finally heard from outside tax accountant Enrique, who reports having completed the e-filing of our tax returns prior to the deadline. We have paid his bill in a lot less time than it took him to file our returns.
- Completed closing the consolidated financials through both July and August, so now finally back to being current.
- No other bill payments hit the RG account through Sep 20, but a regular paper check hit that account for \$143.95, made out to Victoria's Secret from a Jill Wooten in Costa Mesa. The online picture of the check does not show either a numerical or a verbal amount. The routing number and account number on the check do match those on our account, but the check style is different from what we currently have in stock, so they did not simply steal a physical check from our supply and alter it. The check shows not only the payor's name but also her address and phone number and driver's license, so we should have a discussion during the upcoming Agenda item on exactly how we want to pursue this matter.
- We did receive \$194.50 from National for contacting 389 lapsed members.
- We have calculated that Michelle Freeman needs to spend at least \$229 more before the end of the fiscal year in order to exhaust the

remainder of her advance in March, and may spend up to \$430.25 without exceeding her overall expense budget for the year. Sent that information by e-mail to Madeline for her reference.

- Personally visited a Chase bank branch in order to show them the check written on our RG account, and found from them that the only apparent remedy is to close our account and open a new one. But, opening a new one necessitates the Secretary to be present, with a copy of the Minutes documenting his election, so we need to deal with that at earliest practical opportunity, because the RG account is now frozen until we do. Considered notifying Secretary Lee and asking him to bring a printed copy of the May Minutes to today's meeting, but felt that there was not sufficient time to make such a request.
- In the meantime, Madeline placed the initial hotel deposit on her personal card for an Account Payable. We were planning on obtaining a card-authorization form from the hotel in order to have payments come directly from our bank account, but doing so for the RG account needs to wait until we get a new account established and funded. In the meantime, given that establishing a new account probably needs to wait until next month, we probably should simply put everything on the GLAAM-general debit card, and we'll settle it all up later.
- Checked GLAAM mailbox on 10/5. Picked up 9 RG registrations and a notification from our D&O carrier that the coverage is moved to Arch Insurance Company at the end of the policy year, because previous carrier Aon is moving its entire D&O program to the new carrier.
- Including the payments picked up from the mailbox this week, we are now counting 71 paid full registrations for the RG, which is good for this time of year.

B. Area Reports

1. **Coastal:**

- Walker, via email: Vickey Kalambakal arranged for us to meet at the Old Town Music Hall for an old time jazz show. It was amusing, especially an early movie clip of George Burns and Gracie Allen doing some of their routines. There were 4 or 5 of us there. Then we moved down the street to Sausal Restaurant, where 9 or 10 of us had a very nice meal.

2. **Hi-Desert:**

- Schneider: First of the Mensth (1*M) in October had to move because Roxanne's no longer has their brunch buffet. Sigh! We went to the other excellent brunch in town: Casa Corona. It was great...and we'll be there again next month unless I decide to

change it, because November 1st is Dia de Muertos, and they put on a big splash for that.

- Tooth Tuesday (2thT) was just the two of us: Carl Bryan and myselfMahoney: Thursday dinner was Korean BBQ and had 4 attendees.
- Sure wish I could find someone to organize events in the other population centers of Hi-Desert, but no one has come forward.
- No activity in Hi-Desert bank account these last three months
- I get notices of the Tulare-Kings events, way up North in San Joaquin Valley. Is it okay to submit those for the newsletter calendar? [Following discussion, Schneider decided to just publicize them in her local calendar.]
- In theory, we have a venue for our Christmas party, in Bakersfield this year

3. SFV:

- Phippeny: Did not see many SFV members at the picnic, but probably due to the failure to publicize it.
- Having a house party at Jana Bickel's in November.
- Will be going to an Indian restaurant in November.

C. Members-at-Large

1. Elliott:

- Having previously sent to then-Webmaster Andrew on 14-Dec-2016 my suggestions for how the Members-Only module of the GLAAM website should be restructured, since so much of the content has come from my various offices over the years, I located that document and sent a copy of it to new Webmaster Alma for her consideration when she gets time.
- With certain outside projects beginning to take more of my time and attention these days, I have decided not to seek reelection to the position of Member-at-Large, so I will not be available to serve another term as GLAAM Treasurer. I have tried many times to line up a successor (and did so again at the recent picnic, which unfortunately was more lightly attended than we have seen in the past, so not as many potential successors), and at this point we have some possibilities but nothing definite yet. In any case, I do not feel that I can continue beyond the end of this term to give the position the attention which it deserves, so asking all present and all who read the Minutes and/or Mini-Minutes to help as best as you practically can with the designation of a successor Treasurer, because you will need one.

2. Nolan:

- Thanks to Walker for arranging the Hamilton viewing. We had 100% attendance.

- Blame for low attendance at events attributable to traffic.

D. Committees and Coordinators

1. **Awards:**

- Elliott: While re-exploring the AML website in order to locate the monthly subsidy reports which used to be sent to us directly, accidentally located a listing of our local officers as currently recognized by National, and managed to pick up from there a Proctor whom we did not already have in our record.

2. **Gifted Youth:**

- Walker, via email: Jonathan Elliott sent me info on the amount we can let Michelle Freeman have for youth events, but I got a little confused, so I need to talk with him about it. Several families were at the Fall Picnic.

3. **Regional Gathering:**

- Walker, via email: We have nine interesting speakers on our web page. When I return from the Hawaii RG, I will work with Jerilyn and Alma to facilitate more speakers and a schedule to be added.
- I would like Vickey to send me info on all current attendees. I have been greeting those who sign up on-line, and would like to also greet people who mailed in registrations.
- I need to work with Desiree to update the RG email list, or learn how to implement another system she has mentioned.
- The RG meeting had five people. A lot was accomplished, although Jana disagreed with the idea of having some off-premises activities for one afternoon.
- Next meeting the Board will discuss changing Storage sites again. The "new" one is skimpy on its measurements.
- Phippeny: We are almost certain that we have all the speakers that we need. The schedule is still being finalized. Sent to Alma a large speaker list but it got lost somehow, and I sent her some more, which were the 9 currently listed. Will re-send the entire list.
- Reserve the right as Program Coordinator to schedule off-campus events.

4. **Scholarship:**

- Stillman: As of the publishing of the Agenda, I have resigned as chair. Jennifer Carter had lined up a successor for the Scholarship Chair, but neither Bruce nor I were aware of that. Joshua Dresser, Jennifer's chosen replacement, still wants to do it. Desiree contacted National to get him on the books as Chair with Desiree and me as assistants, but we need to appoint him at this meeting.

5. **Social Media:**

- Phippeny: We have failed to get the Facebook events posted this month, and we need an assistant. [Albert accepted.]

6. Special Events:

- Walker, via email: 47 people enjoyed seeing Hamilton at the Pantages. Several of them met with me ahead of the show at The Pie Hole for a bite and a chat. A good time was had by all.
- Fall Picnic had 46 attendees. Vickey K was accidentally left off the list ... She was there! I think we consistently get a larger turnout in the Spring, probably because school and other activities are just starting in the Fall.
- Natalie Hampton was there with her parents to receive the Copper Black award. She was thrilled to get the honor, and told us the background of her "Sit With Us" anti-bullying App that has gone International.
- Jonathan Cole will be at the Board meeting next month to discuss the Hollywood Bowl for next year.

7. Circulation:

- Madsen: Newsletter went out on time.
- We have enough money in our USPS account to pay for one more month.

8. L.A Mentary:

- Kalambakal: There was an issue with the printer not being able to handle PDFs.
- Look forward to getting reports from you.
- Unless you say different, I will continue to run Help Wanted ads for IE Secretary & Delegate, Coastal Delegate, ELAC Secretary, and Young Ms Coordinator. [Elliott noted the possible Member-at-Large vacancy.]

9. MensaPhone:

- Albert: I remember I was going to look into Google Voice, will do that as soon as possible.

10. SIGHT:

- Arlette Chew, via email: We had a visitor from Sweden this month. Stefan is a member of Swedish Mensa who was at UCLA for a Computer Programming conference, followed by exploration of LA, San Francisco, and Yosemite. He stayed with me for two nights while visiting Venice, the Getty, and a Hollywood tattoo parlor!

11. Data:

- Madsen: I went through the Facebook group again to make sure everyone was members and paid up.
- Still sending reports to Jerilyn.

III. Special Orders

- A. Filling of Vacant Chairs & Coordinators
1. **Scholarship Chair** – Joshua Dresser nominated (Stillman/Phippeny); approved 8/0/0.

IV. New Business

- A. 2018 Meeting Dates
- Madsen: I went through the calendar to look for American, Christian, and Jewish holidays, and the only thing that would conflict with the first Saturday of the month is the AG in July. So I propose we move the July meeting to the second Saturday. [The Chair agreed.]
- B. Security on RG Bank Account
- Treasurer Elliott repeated that he had originally requested this Agenda item when it appeared that we would be keeping the RG account open at least temporarily. However, now that we have determined that the account is to be closed, still would like to use this time to request advice from the Board on this subject. Specifically, would like to know whether we should follow up in any way on the name and address and phone number and driver's license which appear on the false check image. Some discussion, general consensus being that we should write to the subject in hope of discouraging her from any further attempts to use that account, and that we should also report the matter to the police even if they end up not doing anything about it.

V. Closing

- A. **Good of the Order** – Elliott: 1) For information, most recent USPS payment was released back on June 30, so we actually are on our normal budgetary track. 2) Based on the feedback received about the recent picnic, maybe we should consider moving to an annual schedule, aiming for the Spring when attendance is expected to be highest. That would enable us to devote more budgetary dollars towards a larger single food-spread per year, in the hope of increasing our attendance. 3) According to our operating rules, Nikki Frey is presumed to have resigned from her position as Member-at-Large, effective as of the adjournment of the present meeting, because she has missed the last three meetings without excuse. Schneider: Lyndsey's vanity email is inoperative. [Albert noted that his was as well and he had to get help from National to fix it.] Phippeny: due to increasing commitments, may look for a replacement as Area Secretary.
- B. **Adjournment** -- Motion (Phippeny/Stillman, 8/0/0) to adjourn approved at 12:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Stillman
Secretary