

GLAAM Board of Directors

Official Minutes

December 1, 2018

Pilgrim Towers, 440 N. Madison Av., Pasadena

	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Delegate</i>	<i>Members-at-Large</i>
Mid-City	[O] Vesper Burnett	[O] Jordan Albert	[X] Desiree Elliott
Coastal	[O] Alma Munro	[O] Madeline Walker	[O] Andrea Nolan
SFV	[X] Jerilyn Phippeny	[X] Charlie Mahoney	[O] Gene Schneider
ELAC	[/] Michael Wong 12:00pm	<i>vacant</i>	[O] Sandra Smith
Hi-Desert	[/] Lindsay Ross 11:38am	[X] Bruce Smith	[X] Lee Stillman
Inland Empire	[X] Wilbert Woo	<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>

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

Guest: Johnathan Elliott, Vickey Kalambakal (11:19), Brian Madsen (11:04)

I. Opening

- A. **Call to Order** -- by Chairman Elliott at 11:01am.
- B. **Approval of Agenda** –Moved (Mahoney/Phippeny) to approve; carried 6/0/0.
- C. **Approval of Previous Minutes** – Moved (B Smith/Woo) to approve; carried 5/0/1.

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

1. Chairman:

- Elliott: Candidate petitions are up on the National website. The deadline for petitions is January 31. Please check back periodically and sign for the five executive officer positions and RVC9.
- There will also be Bylaws amendments for both International and National Mensa. One in particular is an item regarding appointments to fill vacant RVC positions.
- National has restored some of the reports we used to get.
- We are testing less than the national average.
- Everyone's numbers are down, but ours are rebounding.
- Our officer demographics are skewing younger than the rest of Region 9.
- We are only 19 behind Metro Washington Mensa in membership.

2. Treasurer:

- B Smith: I'm working on getting the ledgers updated, hopefully within the week.
- Current balance, general ledger: \$23,631.76. RG account \$10,319.68.

B. Area Reports

1. **SFV:**

- Mahoney: December 8 party at my house is in the physical Calendar but not on the website.
- Phippeny: Our last party went off successfully – we had about 10 people – and a good time was had by all.
- Elliott: With the fires affecting some of our SFV members, note that there is a National Emergency Coordinator that in the event of a natural disaster is available for putting people who have been affected in touch with those that can provide help.

2. **ELAC:**

- Elliott: There was one attendee at the ELAC party.

C. Members-at-Large

1. **Stillman:**

- Attended the Phoenix RG, had fun.

D. Committees and Coordinators

1. **RVC:**

- Elliott: Orange County is going to have an RG next year; Phoenix just had theirs.
- GPM has identified a problem with the National website – they used to be able to get chapter demographics, and no longer can.

2. **Regional Gathering:**

- Elliott: We have gotten more registrations in, but I don't have the update list.
- We now have three speakers listed on the website, but there are others confirmed that do not have their information updated.
- Registration cost increased as of today.

3. **Social Media:**

- Mahoney: I've been busy with school so I haven't had time to get a lot done.

4. **Strategic Planning:**

- Elliott: Alma said that she had a committee meeting on 11/5, and specific roles were given out.

5. **Testing:**

- Elliott: We had testing in November, will test in December, and will be doing the Culture Fair test in January.
- We have CalTech confirmed for another year.

6. **Awards:**

- J Elliott: We had a certain item on our low-pri list for several years, to create a separate table of points by year and function category, to get a better feel for why we are awarding fewer points overall now than in previous years. However, when recently updating the overall graph of points per year, we saw that the

levels have been staying within the 300-400 range for the last 30 years. It was only in the years around 1980 that we were up in the 450-500 range routinely, and today's conditions are way different from how they were then, so we are not currently seeing how a more detailed analysis would be of much usefulness at this point, and we have dropped the item from our to-do list.

- We attempted to read the Jul2012 and Mar2014 copies of the /Mensa Bulletin/ from the AML website, so that we could make award notes as applicable, because J Elliott never received those issues in the real life, but when we logged in and located the issue archive and found the Jul2012 issue and clicked on the link to read it online, only a blank gray window appeared. However, the Mar2014 issue had a PDF option, so that one worked out all right. Accessing the Jul2012 issue is a give-up and has been dropped from our active to-do list.
- We have also gotten far enough down our to-do list that we have begun to update our lists of volunteer incumbents arranged by Function, as opposed to by Year or by Individual, with the aim of getting selected positions (including Chairman and Editor and a few others) listed in a History section of the GLAAM website. The last update of that document was completed in 2012, and we want to try to keep it updated on an annual basis going forward, same as all the other lists. Action taken this month included adding all the Proctors in our history based on the national archive and other sources, because we previously never had them listed at all, for not having had any local records available at the time.
- Madsen added that he has access to an electronic copy of the Jul2012 /Mensa Bulletin/.

7. Bylaws:

- J Elliott: Committee is still considering the draft checklist which we completed in early November for compliance of our current Bylaws document with the national Minimum Standard Bylaws.
- Pursuant to our report from last month, we have drafted a motion which would restore a Roster section back into our Officer Guidelines, even though we do not intend to produce any more rosters for a while if ever, but showing certain national requirements for just in case. Committee is currently reviewing the draft of this motion to determine whether it is in acceptable condition to be reported up to the full Board for formal consideration.
- Good news is that we still have until Dec 11 to submit the October financials to the Newsletter Editor for printing in the January issue, pursuant to Bylaws Paragraph VI-D-5, requiring semiannual reporting to the membership of our financial condition, to include not just our current bank balances but also the "income, expenses, and balances for all funds under the control of GLAAM".

Committee formally reminded our LocSec on Nov 19 and the Treasurer on Nov 24 and the Board today that this deadline is pending, so we claim that the Bylaws Committee has done its 'due diligence' to encourage compliance with our own internal requirements as a California corporation.

8. Circulation:

- Madsen: All is well, we got the newsletter out on time. I would still like to find a way to do an electronic funds transfer, but we do have a workaround for it.

9. Data:

- Madsen: All reports delivered, and our Facebook group and announcement lists are up to date.

10. L.A. Mentary:

- Kalambakal: All is well. Toni was out last month and I managed to pull everything together.
- I do not have a cover picture for January yet.

11. SIGHT:

- Arlette Chew, via email: I didn't see the visitors from the Czech Republic after sending the information they requested, and don't know if they attended any events.
- We'll have a visitor from England in May. I sent her info on things to do in LA, accessing the Calendar, and offered any other assistance as requested. Haven't heard back from her.

12. Webmaster:

- Elliott: Alma advised us she has been sick and that is why web stuff has not been updated.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Review Status of Mensa Connect Preparation

B Smith's account activated. Phippeny reports she cannot log in. Mahoney was able to log in. Elliott urged everyone to play around with it and see what they can do. National for some reason cannot tell us how many active accounts there are until they go live. We do not yet have moderators in place. Madsen proposed that National set us up with the equivalent of the GLAAM_CCs list so we can use that as our playground and familiarize ourselves with its use.

III. New Business

A. Memorial Booklet for RG

Several members have contacted the RG Committee wanting to do some sort of memorial for Joyce Francisco. Per her wishes, we have not planned anything. However, as a community, we do like to get together and remember those who have passed. At the RG, it would be nice to set aside time to gather together to share stories, memories, etc. At our 50th Anniversary, we put together a booklet with past moments. I would like to do that at the RG on an annual basis.

Moved (Woo/Stillman) to budget \$750 for the "Celebration of GLAAM" booklet for 2019; approved 5/0/2.

VI. Closing

- A. **Good of the Order** – J Elliott reported that GLAAM member Kedem Har-Shalom had recently volunteered to take over administration of the national version of the "Answers to Everything" SIG, which had been inactivated in 2012 following an external hack of their listserv, but when they contacted the new National SIG's Officer (NSO) for reinstatement, they learned that a new rule is in place whereby new or reinstating SIG's must have at least 10 charter members previously lined up somehow before it could advertise for more within the /Mensa Bulletin/. Elliott further described how it used to be (including when he personally served as the NSO), that new or prospective SIG's would use the /Bulletin/ to reach out to members of American Mensa in order to attract new members for their SIG's, and he asserted that the publication had become "less of a communication organ for members of our Mensa society and more of a general-purpose magazine edited by a non-Mensan", and "more generally that this is another example of the national organization exerting centralized control more and offering member services less". He stated his "hope that this philosophical approach of theirs may someday pendulate back closer to the way that things were several decades ago, with a member-driven national organization and a member-oriented national publication", and he suggested that "if anybody present can somehow help with that process then that would be great".

J Elliott also reported that he and Desiree had recently attended a baby shower for our friend and past Scholarship Chair the former Jennifer Carter, married name being Jennifer Wise. They also encountered a few former Mensa members and exhorted them to rejoin. Jennifer asked that they convey her greetings to the Board.

- B. **Adjournment** -- Motion (Phippeny/Mahoney, 8/0/0) to adjourn approved at 12:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Stillman
Secretary