

GLAAM Board of Directors

Official Minutes

September 5, 2020

Conducted electronically via Zoom

	Secretary	Delegate	Members-at-Large
Mid-City	[X] Vesper Burnett	[X] Jordan Albert	[O] Greg Williamson
Coastal	[X] Alma Munro	[X] Madeline Walker	[X] Andrea Nolan
SFV	[X] Jana Bickel	vacant	[O] Gene Schneider
ELAC	[X] Billie Lee	vacant	[X] Sandra Smith
Hi-Desert	[X] Craig Lancaster	[X] Bruce Smith	[X] Courtney Seiter
Inland Empire	[X] Wilbert Woo	vacant	

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

Guests: Jonathan Elliott, Brian Madsen, Toni Hansen

I. Opening

- A. Call to Order – 11:52 am
- B. Approval of Agenda – (Munro) approved 12/0/0
- C. Approval of Previous Minutes – (Munro) Approved 11/0/1

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

- i. Chairman (Munro) - temp rvc coordinator has been assigned, Rachel Kibler. We are improving our communications.
- ii. Exec Vice Chair (S Smith) - please call if you need a member's handbook.
- iii. Vice Chair (G. Schneider) - not present
- iv. Sec (Burnett) - no report
- v. Treasurer (B Smith) – Sent a check to fund all our scholarships this year. GLAAM balance is \$26,381.99, RG balance is \$6,423.62.

B. Area Reports

- i. Mid City (Burnett/Albert) -no report
- ii. Coastal (Walker/Munro) - no report
- iii. ELAC (Lee) - Billie is moving out of state. Will list job opening in newsletter and online.
- iv. Hi-Desert (Lancaster/ B. Smith) - no report
- v. Inland Empire (Woo) - Zoom get together had 8 people this month.
- vi. SFV (Bickel) – Will have a zoom meeting next month.

C. Members-at-Large

- i. Nolan - met a new gifted youth

ii. Schneider - not present

iii. S. Smith - no report

iv. Williamson - no report

v. Seiter - no report

D. Committees and Coordinators

i. Awards (J Elliott) - - Congrats to GLAAM member Billie Lee, who recently was awarded a national Certificate of Appreciation, and I quote "for service on the AMC as Second Vice Chair and as an active member or chair of many national committees and task forces". Anybody who does that gets a 2-point bonus in our GLAAM awards schema.

ii. By-laws (J Elliott) - - We completed submission of our Bylaws-revision package to the National Bylaws Committee, and we have heard back from them that everything is okay except for one element, namely section V-B. We have crafted a proposed revision to that element, and are asking the NatByCom unofficially if that will satisfy their concern, before we formally submit it to the GLAAM Board for approval.

- We were going to make a note about needing to plan for some kind of Annual Business Meeting if we were not going to be conducting an in-person Regional Gathering during the present Board term, but we recently read about the one-day virtual event which is now in the planning stages, so we imagine that the net-best thing is to make sure that an official Membership meeting is worked into that schedule somehow.

iii. Elections (Fenig / Friedlander) - not present

iv Ombudsman (Friedlander) - not present

v. Gifted Youth (Walker) - 15 yo Sara has coordinated GLAAM game teams. National Honor Society deadline for young mensans is Sept 15.

vi. Regional Gathering (Walker) - 1 day virtual regional gathering on Feb. 15, see more below.

vii. Scholarships (Takenaka) - not present, but we are participating with \$600

viii. Social Media Coordinators (Albert) - no report

ix. Special Events (Walker) - Hollywood Bowl did receive the donation. All of Hamilton monies has been refunded to members. Dodger payment has been refunded.

x. Strategic Planning (Munro) - no report

xi. Testing (D. Elliott) - no report

xii. Circulation (Madsen) - We have enough money for one more month.

xiii. Data (Madsen) - Everything up to date.

xiv. LA-mentary (Kalambakal) - Any reports or reviews are welcome.

xv. Open Forum (Albert) - Gave a brief overview of New Business article A.

xvi. SIGHT (Chew) - no report

xvii. SIGs (Madsen/Bickel) – book club is active. Alan Stillson will have a folksong Zoom meeting.

xviii. Webmaster (Lee) – Will be leaving the board but will still help out in this role to complete project with Greg Williamson.

xix. Mensaphone (Schneider) - not present

xx. PR (Williamson) - not present, but submitted report attached below

xxi. Membership (Williamson) - no report

III. Special Orders

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

A. Possible speaker for a virtual Open Forum: Psychologist and Counselor for Gifted, Neurodiverse children Day Sanchez, M.S./Ed.S. (Albert) – possibility to invite other national groups. Generally no payment is involved. Waiting for her to reply to inquiry.

B. Resource for virtual events: TWO BIT CIRCUS has a new virtual game show platform that is available for groups to rent. Might be worth considering for future GLAAM activities (Albert).

C. GLAAM no longer has the Emerald Jewel Award (Kalambakal) - We could use an event such as open forum that is open to national members as an extra way to earn points. Other things are LocSec reports. There is a checklist they have that includes all activities that will earn us points. We should find some easy ways to fulfil some of these requirements. Will continue to discuss this month online and review any new ideas at next month's board meeting.

VI. Closing

A. Good of the Order – (J Elliott) reported that the Answers to Everything SIG has been continuing to transcribe their remaining meeting notes into the Final Report of their activity. That report recently surpassed 500,000 words. Brief discussion of whether the GLAAM website can accommodate that large of a report on a permanent basis, to be considered further later, when the report is completed.

B. Adjournment – (Walker / S. Smith) approved 12/0/0 at 13:13.

GLAAM Board of Directors

Mini-Minutes

Board Meeting – September 5, 2020

Meeting called to order at 11:16 am over Zoom, with Board members Burnett, Munro, Bickel, Lee, Lancaster, Woo, Albert, Walker, B Smith, Nolan, S. Smith, and Seiter present, in addition to guests Jonathan Elliott, Brian Madsen, Vickey Kalambakal, and Toni Hansen. Executive officers,

area secretaries, coordinators and committee chairs gave updates. The board discussed the virtual RG to be held on February 15th, a possible open forum event, and how to gain our Emerald Jewel Award back from National. Meeting adjourned at 13:13pm.

NEW BUSINESS FROM JORDAN:

Possible speaker for a virtual Open Forum:

Psychologist and Counselor for Gifted, Neurodiverse children **Day Sanchez, M.S./Ed.S.**

<https://www.2eminds.com/work-with-day/>

She's already expressed interest in doing a presentation for Mensa members. This is from a recent email exchange:

I would absolutely love to collaborate with you and MENSA! I enjoy educating families of gifted children about the climate crisis and raising awareness about the impacts of the ecological crisis on children's mental health and well-being. Perhaps this is an area where we could collaborate?

I'd be happy to present or host a workshop on any topics related to:

- Gifted children/youth*
- Emotional intelligence*
- Ecological intelligence, eco-grief/eco-anxiety*
- Neurodiversity*
- Twice-exceptionality*
- Learning differences (ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dyscalculia, sensory processing sensitivities, etc)*
- Mindfulness and other tools for emotional awareness and self-regulation*
- Any other topic you think would be appropriate*

Do you know when their next virtual event is? I'd love to put something together. Just let me know what their needs are, and I'd be happy to see where I can contribute something.

Looking forward to chatting more!

~Day

Resource for virtual events:

TWO BIT CIRCUS, a mini-amusement park & VR arcade in downtown LA, currently closed b/c of COVID, just launched a virtual event/game platform. Using the platform includes tech and organizational support. Fees vary depending on the type of event you want to put on.

More info:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8YH7KaB6SI>

<https://app.hubspot.com/documents/7054927/view/84252999?accessId=f94771>

NEW BUSINESS FROM VICKEY:

[Click here](#)

PR Coordinator Report

GLAAM Sex Survey

I have been experimenting with various and escalating ways of trying to get a response from national on the sex survey proposed by the adult novelty company earlier in our public health crisis. Just yesterday I received a response. It is somewhat vague, but appears to be a cautious and tentative approval to proceed with the survey, but only within the GLAAM region. I will be clarifying the terms with national and contacting the novelty company to see if they are still interested in proceeding. It has taken several months to get this approval so whether or not the company is still interested in proceeding is a big question mark. But if we do end up moving forward we would be sending out an invitation to participate to members and the company would conduct the survey. How that will happen exactly, in terms of creating a distribution list of 18+ members, is yet to be determined.

GLAAM.org

Work is proceeding with revising the website and adding a blog to it. I have been in contact with Billie Lee, Vickey Kalambakal, and Toni Hansen. Articles from the most recent LA Mentary were shared with Billie to begin creating the blog and its first posts. A conversation has begun about possible workflows moving forward and one of our intentions is to keep the workload as small as possible for everyone involved. (But I don't want to downplay all the work that people are putting into it.) I am working on creating assets for the website such as photos and graphics. We may need to use some stock images in the beginning until we are able to take high-quality images ourselves to replace them.

Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa Presents...

The monthly screening series is moving forward. I am working on setting a calendar and developing the program and format with our screening host and partner. In addition to conversations about when and what we are screening, HOW we are screening is still a bit of a question mark. The most basic scenario is a Netflix share plug-in for web browsers. But the longer we are in a lockdown scenario, the more sophisticated virtual events are becoming. Jordan Albert was kind enough to include me in a virtual event last week that demonstrated some of the more advanced features available through Zoom and how events can be organized and run to keep them engaging despite the required virtual element of it. The technology/platform used can affect which movies can be screened.

If anyone would be interested in participating in an informal survey that I am putting together with Survey Monkey about the screening series, please email me at gregory.williamson@alumni.usc.edu.

Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa Volunteer Events

This is challenging during our current social distancing and stay-at-home culture, but things are starting to move here again. Some non-profits have opened up, albeit with restrictions, and have resumed work with the communities they serve. I have been on sites and the restrictions may not yet allow for volunteer events at their locations, but they are developing ways of helping remotely so volunteers can participate without going to their site. I'm continuing to monitor the situation to see when it might be feasible and safe to begin volunteer events with community groups.

RG

We will want to have some time to talk about the RG. It will be a Virtual RG on Saturday, February 15, which is our usual weekend, but only for one day. It will be speakers and games, and perhaps some time in between for people to just chat with each other. We have our GLAAM Zoom line, and

Jordan Byrne has another Zoom account, so we can have speakers on one line and games on the other. Jay Friedlander has had experience putting games onto Zoom, and Jordan and I will start pulling in speakers. Randall Mills is available to put together an hour of comical evening entertainment. Jordan has some other ideas he wants to discuss at the meeting.

Along with general chatting, we can discuss whether there are any costs to the various ideas (Zoom charges, evening entertainment, etc.) If so, will we want to have a small fee to cover charges? One person I was talking to suggested we put a line at the bottom of the notice asking people to donate to the event.

Vickey Kalambakal is helping me put together an early notice in the October LA mentary and on Social Media, so we can find out how many people are interested. David Ilan has offered to do online RG graphics ...perhaps a PDF with the schedule or promotions before the event.