

Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom
December 4th, 2021

Area	Secretary	Delegate	Members-at-Large
Mid-City	vacant	vacant	[✓] Andrea Nolan
Coastal	vacant	vacant	[X] Gene Schneider
SFV	[✓] Jana Bickel	[✓] Alan Stillson	[✓] Courtney Seiter
ELAC	vacant	[✓] Jonathan Elliott	[X] Sandra Smith
Hi-Desert	vacant	[✓] Lindsay Ross	[✓] Madeline Walker
Inland Empire	[X] Wilbert Woo	vacant	[✓] Gregory Williamson

This was Gene Schneider's third absence. Her seat became vacant at the conclusion of this meeting.

Key:

[✓] = present for entire meeting

[/] = present for portion

[X] = absent

Guests: Jordan Albert, Nikki Frey, Jay Friedlander, Laura Miller, Michele Mulidor, Elna Tymes

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

- Meeting was opened by Chair Seiter at 11:01am.
- Seiter turned the running of the meeting over to Elliott as parliamentarian.

B. Approval of Agenda

- Elliott proposed amendments to the agenda:
 - Unfinished business should include the Santa Barbara event that we discussed in the last meeting.
 - Vacancies under Special Orders should include Chair but not Executive Vice Chair and not Treasurer.
 - Area vacancies should be listed in increasing order
 - East L.A. County is not vacant.
 - Williamson should not be presented as having a third consecutive absence.
- Seiter seconded.
- The agenda was approved as amended.

C. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Ross had submitted minutes from the last meeting, which other Board members felt needed corrections.
- Ross was unwilling to make those changes, and stood by his original proposed minutes.
- Bickel moved, and Williamson seconded "that we do not approve the minutes."
- Motion was adopted (7/0/1), and the previous month's minutes were not approved.

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

1. Chair (vacant)
2. Executive Vice-Chair (Seiter): no report
3. Administrative Vice-Chair (vacant)
4. Secretary (Ross): no report
5. Treasurer (Woo): absent

B. Area Reports

1. SFV
 - Bickel: "We did not meet at Sizzler because it was Thanksgiving, but we did have a Contemporary Issues SIG discussion, which was moved to The Horseless Carriage. We were very happy with that new location."
 - Stillson: "enthusiastic crowds" at the in-person Folksong SIG, and the online Folksong SIG is going well too. Also, "the Writers Group is small, and we'd like a few more people to join in, but we're getting some helping of authors done."

C. Members-at-Large

1. Nolan: no report
2. Seiter: no report
3. Walker: no report
4. Williamson: no report

D. Committees and Coordinators

1. Awards
 - Elliott had received a request from Bickel to be added to the Awards Committee.
 - Elliott felt that "we were not really taking on new committee members at this time," and reported that he was contemplating changing Awards from a committee to a Coordinator position.
 - Bickel responded that she felt that it was important that the Awards Committee consist of more than one person, "to give people the idea that it's not a single person in charge of who gets awards" and not to give "the perception that you're pulling all the chains."
 - Elliott was persuaded by this argument, and said, "I'm going to go ahead and at this time, appoint Jana as a member of the Awards Committee and will keep the committee as committee."

- Elliott also noted that “the RG Committee has been having second thoughts about conducting an event in San Pedro” which “calls into question whether we still want to have an awards luncheon in the near future.”
 - Elliott didn't make a recommendation about this, but reported that it's “an ongoing topic of discussion.”

2. Elections

- Friedlander reported:
 - “The Mid-City Secretary and Delegate positions have been posted in *L.A. Mentary*, so they can be filled at the January meeting.”
 - “The Coastal Secretary position was officially vacated on September 29. It has not been posted because the decision for that position was under appeal. That appeal has ultimately been resolved by the National ExComm. The appeal was not upheld, so the Coastal Secretary position vacancy can be posted in the January issue to be filled at the February meeting.”
 - Elliott asked Friedlander to clarify this vacancy. Elliott stated his understanding that the action taken in September referred to the position of LocSec and not to the position of Coastal Secretary.
 - Friedlander responded, “No, unfortunately, that's not accurate. And apparently, it might not have been made clear at the time by the announcement of Regional Vice Chair Rachel Kibler. But she did clarify later that she vacated both of those positions at that time.”
 - “All Member-at-Large positions are currently in good standing. However, Gene Schneider has not yet arrived. This will, as Courtney noted, be her third absence. That position, if Gene does not arrive by the end of this meeting, can also be posted in January to be filled at the February meeting.”

3. Regional Gathering

- Walker reported that the committee has “pretty much” decided not to hold an in-person RG this coming February.
- Friedlander expressed concern about issuing refunds, and that in order to do so, we need to know where the RG checkbook is.
 - Elliott reported his understanding that Munro had the checkbook in February 2020.
 - Later in the meeting, Friedlander reported that he had received communication from Munro that she had turned all checkbooks over to Woo.
 - Woo was not present at this meeting to confirm.
- Elliott noted that if we sent an announcement about the RG to be listed in the *Mensa Bulletin*, we would need to issue a retraction. Madeline agreed to follow up on that with national.

4. Special Events

- Walker: "We had the November *Hamilton* show, and now we have December 19th for another group."

5. Strategic Planning

- Elliott asked if anyone is involved in Strategic Planning.
- Albert responded that he has been a member of the Committee, which Alma had been leading, but that he was not interested in leading it himself.
- Elliott asked if we still feel that we should have a Strategic Planning Committee. Albert said that he believed that we should.
- Friedlander noted that Munro "retains ownership of all positions that are not elected until she chooses one way or another to affirmatively step down from them. She has not been removed from any of these positions, so her chairmanship of that committee, and the other positions she occupies, remains in place."

6. Circulation

- Stillson: "Circulation is working pretty well. I worked it for the second time, it was very smooth for December, I expect it'll be very smooth on an ongoing basis."

7. *L.A. Mentary*

- Frey reported positive reviews from her last issue. "It's getting a very good reaction."

8. MensaPhone

- Albert reported that he had the phone, but asked if there would be a MensaPhone Coordinator, considering Schneider's prolonged absence.
- Elliott clarified that her absences will vacate her Board position, but not her other volunteer positions.

9. SIGHT

- Ross had a copy of Chew's report, in which, Ross reported, "she mentioned a visitor from the Netherlands and another person."

10. Social Media

- Seiter reported that the responsibilities for social media had been transferred from Albert, and she planned "to take a very aggressive stance, social media-wise, beginning in January, so that we really have a better visibility and stake in the online world."

11. Webmaster

- Albert reported that "there's been a lot of back and forth trying to just update the RG page."
- Albert reported that Gililand has not been available.
- Albert reported that he contacted Billie Lee who was helpful about implementing some updates.
- Albert also reported that with the RG now not happening in person, he would

work with Madeline to post announcements to that effect to the website.

- Albert proposed contacting someone outside of GLAAM to help support the website.
- Bickel added that SIG information is not correct, and "I know how to go in and create events, but I wasn't able to figure out how to change one of the other pages. I'm more than happy, if someone will show me how, to make changes to the SIG list." Jordan offered to help Bickel with that.

12. Archivist, Finance, Gifted Youth, Membership, Ombudsman, Open Forum, Public Relations, Scholarships, SIGs, and Testing all offered no report.

III. Special Orders

A. Special Election for LocSec

- Elliott handed the floor to Friedlander to run the Special Election.
- Friedlander thanked a number of outgoing Board members for their past service and contributions, including Burnett, Jordan, Lancaster, and Munro.
- Friedlander acknowledged the presence of Bickel, Elliott, Stillson, Walker, Nolan, Seiter, Ross, and Williamson, all of whom were eligible to fill vacancies, including as LocSec, "and you are all encouraged to do so."
- Friedlander also acknowledged that Woo and Schneider, who were absent, would also be eligible as well, as current Board members.
- Friedlander also clarified that if the Executive Vice Chair becomes the Chair, he would immediately conduct another Special Election to fill the vacancy that results.
- Friedlander also clarified that both Wilbert and Ross can become Chair without giving up their Secretary and Treasurer positions, since it is valid to hold both positions at once.
- Friedlander recognized Ross, who stated that he wished to nominate Munro, both for the position of Member-at-Large and for LocSec. Friedlander responded that there were no vacancies as Member-at-Large. Ross asserted without evidence that Williamson's seat was vacant. Friedlander asked for evidence of this. Ross admitted that he had none. Friedlander disallowed the nomination.
- Stillson nominated Seiter.
 - Seiter accepted.
 - Friedlander asked for other nominations. None were offered.
 - Friedlander declared Seiter elected as GLAAM LocSec.
- Friedlander noted that we now had an immediate vacancy as Executive Vice Chair.
 - Seiter nominated Williamson.
 - Williamson accepted.
 - Friedlander asked for other nominations. None were offered.
 - Friedlander declared Williamson elected as Executive Vice Chair.
- Friedlander: "And with that said, I will now turn the meeting over and pass the virtual gavel to your new LocSec and Chair of GLAAM, Courtney."
- Seiter thanked the group. "I have had the opportunity to fill this position for the last couple of months, and it's been challenging, but it's been rewarding as well, so thank you

very much.”

- Seiter handed the virtual gavel back to Elliott to continue running the meeting as parliamentarian.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. A proposal to conduct an event in the vicinity of UC Santa Barbara

Future Secretary Brian Madsen is assembling these meeting minutes several months later, in April, 2022, by which time the Board had decided not to support this event after all. Because the event will not be supported, and because this part of this meeting included some very lengthy discussions about logistics that are no longer relevant in 2022, Secretary Madsen has chosen to greatly abbreviate the content of this discussion. He apologizes in advance to any future readers who may feel that important content has been lost as a result of that abbreviation.

- Guests Laura Miller, Michele Mulidor, and Elna Tymes joined our meeting to discuss a proposal for an event to be held in the style of past events at Asilomar, but held on the campus at UCSB, over Labor Day.
- Mulidor noted, “We can’t go back to Asilomar. We can’t have Asilomar again, not under the present circumstances. I think Santa Barbara is the closest thing to it.”
- GLAAM Board members, especially Elliott and Bickel, expressed great enthusiasm for the idea.
- Much discussion happened about rooms to be used for lodging, other locations to be used for hospitality, food and alcohol, costs (and cost sharing), expenses, publicity, and contingencies if COVID necessitates refunds.
- Estimated cost per person would be about \$400 for the weekend, for meals, rooms, and everything from Friday to Monday.
- The discussion included awareness of the effect this might have on RG plans by neighboring local groups. Specifically, the discussion included a note that Orange County might or might not hold their RG over Labor Day weekend.
- Elliott moved “to endorse the proposal by the Friends of Elna to organize an event at UC Santa Barbara, for Labor Day weekend, 2022, and to provide the organizers with all the support which they may reasonably require.”
 - Seiter seconded.
 - Elliott asked for any objections. Hearing none, he declared the motion carried.

V. New Business

A. Munro reports an error in the election

- No specifics were offered, but Munro has a concern about an election.
- Elliott and Friedlander agreed that Fenig would follow up with Munro to see what action is warranted, if any.

VI. Closing

A. Good of the Order

1. Williamson's Board eligibility

- Ross had asserted without evidence that Williamson may have missed three consecutive meetings.
- Friedlander took time during the meeting to confirm that Williamson had not done so.
- Ross had stated that Munro had told him that Williamson may have missed May, June and July, but Friedlander checked both the Board minutes and the *L.A. Mentary* mini-minutes to confirm that Williamson was present in May.
- Friedlander concluded, "So I just wanted to, you know, cast aside any aspersions that we might have looked at somebody that wasn't qualified for the position. Greg has not missed three consecutive meetings in his entire term starting in May, and is fully qualified to remain on the board."

2. Stillson reiterated his concern about being able to pay our printer for our newsletter.

3. As stated previously, Friedlander reported that he had learned from Munro during this meeting that she had transferred all of the checkbooks and financial materials to Woo, including the RG checkbook.

4. Albert had written, and asked the Board to consider, a proposal for generating email addresses that are associated with positions rather than individuals, so that none of GLAAM's operations are tied to any one person's contact information.

B. Adjournment

- There was a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded, but names of the parties who did so were not recorded. Elliott adjourned the meeting at 12:54pm.

*Submitted retroactively,
Brian Madsen, GLAAM Secretary*