

Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom
January 8th, 2022

| Area | Secretary | Delegate | Members-at-Large |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Mid-City | vacant | vacant | [✓] Andrea Nolan |
| Coastal | vacant | vacant | [✓] Courtney Seiter |
| SFV | [/] Jana Bickel | [✓] Alan Stillson | [X:3] Sandra Smith |
| ELAC | vacant | [X:1] Jonathan Elliott | [✓] Madeline Walker |
| Hi-Desert | vacant | [✓] Lindsay Ross | [✓] Gregory Williamson |
| Inland Empire | [✓] Wilbert Woo | vacant | vacant |

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

Key:

[✓] = present for entire meeting

[/] = present for portion

[X:#] = absent, with count (#) of consecutive absences

Guests: Jordan Albert, Jay Friedlander, Brian Madsen

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

- Meeting was opened by Chair Seiter at 11:05am.

B. Approval of Agenda

- Ross moved "that we have a live transcript of our meeting". Motion failed for lack of a second.
- No votes to approve the agenda, with two abstentions.
- The agenda stood unapproved. Meeting proceeded without an agenda.

C. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Seiter: Minutes were very difficult to read, and title of minutes should be "Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa" rather than "Los Angeles Mensa".
- No votes to approve; one abstention.
- Previous minutes were not approved.

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

1. Chair (Seiter)

- Support for Asilomar: "Orange County is upset with us, I think rightfully so, because they are having their RG that weekend. I think it's worth discussing whether this is something we want to continue to support. Both Orange County and RVC Rachel Kibler have asked us to please reconsider."
- Seiter intended to send out a letter to the Board to request a special meeting to discuss the removal of Ross as Secretary.
 - It must be sent by postal mail, according to our bylaws.
 - "This is not a request to remove Lindsay from the Board, simply from the position of Secretary."

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

B. Area Reports

1. Mid-City (vacant)
2. Coastal (vacant)
3. SFV (Bickel/Stillson):
 - Bickel: "We had our two events. The Sizzler event was on a very rainy, boring day. But I did get seven people. And we are continuing to do the Horseless Carriage."
4. ELAC (Elliott): no report
5. Hi-Desert (Ross): no report
6. Inland Empire (Woo)
 - IE continued holding Zoom meetings on the second Saturday of each month.

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. Elections (Friedlander)
 - The deadline for submitting election petitions was coming up the following month.
 - All 18 board seats would be unoccupied in the upcoming election because this year, no one was carrying over.
 - Friedlander had discussed with Bylaws Chair Elliott the consequences that might arise if it should happen that a severely minimal number of new Board members are present when a new Board is seated at our May meeting.
 - The Board had approved electronic petitioning this year due to the pandemic.

- Bickel asked if signatures from petitioners can be sent some on paper and some by email. Friedlander confirmed that yes, they can do that.
- David Fenig's postal address was shown incorrectly on the election notice in the January *L.A. Mentary*.
- Friedlander asked how potential candidates might obtain a list of members who live in their area.
 - Madsen responded that the Data Officer should have that information, and the national office should have that as well.
 - Madsen noted that he had spoken with Seiter and had expressed interest in taking on the role of Data Officer.

2. Finance

- Walker reported that she was paying rent and insurance on our storage in the amount of \$159. She needed to be reimbursed.
 - Walker asked if she should be paying that bill.
 - Woo stated that he should be paying it as Treasurer, but he had no access to GLAAM's bank accounts.
 - Seiter hoped to resolve the bank account access concerns soon, hopefully during the coming week.

3. Gifted Youth (Walker)

- A college student was looking for a letter showing that he was a member of our group in order to participate in special programs at the university. Walker signed a letter affirming his membership in good standing.

4. Membership (Seiter): no report

5. Regional Gathering (Walker)

- We decided not to go ahead with a full-weekend RG.
- Instead, we had discussed hosting a lunch on Saturday, February 19th, at Acapulco Restaurant in Glendale, in a room they have for 35 people.
- There is a larger room that seats 80 people, but we were not expecting to fill that room in a way that would make it cost-effective.

6. Special Events (Walker)

- *Hamilton* performances: we had 56 people in seats, some in November, some in December
- Asilomar Redux:
 - Walker offered to help get some speakers, but Elna Tymes sent out a note identifying Walker as a partner of the event, which was not Walker's intent.
 - Walker planned to attend the OCM RG, but might attend Asilomar only for a day, and only if someone she knew was speaking there.
 - Friedlander got a request about Asilomar from a member in Oregon, whom he referred to Laura Miller, who responded that no commitment

was signed, so the event is not confirmed.

7. Strategic Planning (vacant)

- Seiter would like to re-establish the Strategic Planning Committee after May, with a three-year plan, after which the committee would be disbanded.

8. Historian (Ross): No report

9. Ombudsman (Friedlander): No report

- Friedlander asked that the agenda be posted somewhere where he can see it.

10. Open Forum (Albert/Ross): No report

11. Circulation (Stillson):

- The electronic newsletter went out promptly. The holidays slowed down the printed newsletter a bit, but had arrived by the date of this meeting.
- Had received an invoice from the printer which showed a past-due balance, and Stillson was concerned about them being paid, given Woo's lack of access to the bank account.
- The Circulation@glaam.us.mensa.org email alias was still going to past Circulation Manager Mildred Phillips, so Stillson asked that emails about circulation be sent to him directly.
 - Madsen pointed out that if email aliases were pointing to the wrong people, we could fix that with the national office.
 - Albert encouraged the board to consider creating email addresses specific to the position that can be passed from one holder of the position to another, and to use those email addresses in place of national office aliases such as Circulation@glaam.us.mensa.org.

12. Public Relations (Ross): No report

13. SIGs (Bickel): No report

14. Social Media (Seiter): No report

III. Special Orders

A. Member-at-Large

- Seiter nominated Madsen.
- Madsen noted that he couldn't accept the nomination because the position was first advertised as vacant in the January *L.A. Mentary*, and the Member-at-Large vacancy couldn't be filled until 30 days after that announcement.
- Friedlander confirmed that the Mid-City and Coastal vacancies could be filled at this meeting, but the Member-at-Large position could first be filled the next month.

B. Administrative Vice Chair

- Friedlander also noted that the AVC position could be filled today, if there were any volunteers. There were no volunteers.

C. Data Officer

- Seiter had asked Madsen to take the Data Officer position. Madsen had agreed.

- Friedlander asked for an up-or-down vote to approve Madsen as Data Officer.
- Seiter moved "that we vote for Brian as Data Officer". There were three seconds, eight votes in favor, and no votes against. Madsen was declared appointed.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Asilomar

- Seiter asked all board members to consider our support for this event.
- Seiter didn't ask for a decision at this meeting, but wanted it to come up next month as unfinished business.

V. New Business

A. Board Meeting dates in 2022

- Madsen pointed out that we planned meeting dates through the end of 2021, but we hadn't chosen any meeting dates for 2022, which is why we needed to do that at this meeting.
- Stillson noted that he saw no conflicts with any of the first Saturdays of 2022, except for July, in which Independence Day is the first weekend and the Annual Gathering is the second weekend.
- Bickel noted that Labor Day weekend was OCM's Regional Gathering.
- Bickel noted that we could take the month of July off altogether.
- Stillson suggested either not holding a Board meeting in July, or holding the meeting on the third Saturday.
- Madsen cautioned that often, the July meeting is used for budget discussions, so if there wouldn't be a July meeting, we probably would want to finalize the budget in June, otherwise budget issues would remain unresolved until August.
- Walker suggested holding the July meeting on the third Saturday and then skipping August.
- Bickel and others wanted to postpone Labor Day to the second Saturday.
- Final decision: Board meetings will be held on the first Saturday of each month between now and June, and we will revisit the schedule for the rest of the year at a future meeting.

B. Editorial Committee for the newsletter (Ross)

- Ross wondered how we might improve the quality of our newsletter through a group effort.
- Stillson suggested thinking of this as an advisory group. It would suggest positive ideas such as sources for articles, but would not have the right to veto the ultimate decision of the editor. It would need to be extremely careful to avoid divisive issues such as politics or personal attacks.
- Ross would like to see our newsletter become something that scholars might refer to.
- Seiter asked Ross to put together a proposal of what that advisory meeting would look like and present it at the next meeting. Ross said, "I'll try."

C. MensaPhone (Albert)

- Albert noted that Gene Schneider was covering MensaPhone.
- We had hoped that the phone would become unlocked when Desiree Elliott removed it from her AT&T account, but instead, although it had been removed from her account, it was still bound to AT&T.
- We could buy a new phone for \$100 and start over with Ting.
- Having a phone for the purpose of two-factor authentication purposes is a valuable use.
- Another reason for having a phone would be as a home for social media accounts.
- Seiter also noted that it could be used for text message communication.
- Albert currently had physical possession of the phone, but felt that he wasn't the right person to have it.
- Seiter offered to take it from Albert going forward, after we decide what to do with MensaPhone from now on.
- Seiter also said she would coordinate with Desiree about unlocking the existing phone.
- Woo suggested getting rid of MensaPhone altogether.

VI. Closing

A. Good of the Order

1. Walker noted that we needed a meeting at Chase Bank to put Woo on our account.
 - Seiter would plan a date and time and get people together to set that up.
 - Madsen reminded that we need minutes that declare that Woo is the new treasurer. Seiter believed that she had minutes from months ago which declare that.
2. Stillson had to cancel a live Folksong SIG that had been scheduled on the day after this meeting due to COVID concerns.
3. Albert wanted to see us provide assistance to our Webmaster. He asked if we want to pay someone to help with that. If so, did we want to consider Billie Lee, since she designed the website originally? Perhaps we could ask her if she is available to do that.

B. Adjournment

- Williamson moved to conclude the meeting; Walker seconded; meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

*Retroactively submitted,
Brian Madsen, GLAAM Secretary*