

AGENDA

2010 Annual Business Meeting of Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa

**1 May 2010 – 10:30 a.m.
Pilgrim Towers
440 North Madison Avenue
Pasadena, California**

- I. Chairman's Annual Report
- II. Treasurer's Annual Report
- III. Secretary's Annual Report
- IV. Directors, Chairs, Coordinators' Annual Reports
- V. Question-and-Answer

Agenda
Annual Installation Meeting
Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa
Board of Directors

1 May 2010 – 10:30am
Pilgrim Towers
440 North Madison Avenue
Pasadena, California

- I. Opening
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Approval of Agenda
 - C. Approval of Previous Minutes

- II. Reports
 - A. Executive Officers
 - B. Area Reports
 - C. Members-at-Large
 - D. Standing Committees
 - E. Coordinators
 - F. Election Committee

- III. Special Orders
 - A. Call to Order (Election Chair Presiding)
 - B. Installation of New Board
 - C. Election of Chair and other Executive Officers
 - D. Filling Vacancies on the Board
 - E. Appointment of Committee Chairs and Coordinators
 - F. Approval of Remaining Agenda
 - G. Any additional Reports

- IV. Closing
 - A. Good of the Order
 - B. Adjournment

Reports

Brian Madsen's Reports

=== Annual Reorganization: ===

I hereby nominate myself for the coming year for all of the positions I currently hold.

Generally speaking, I'm pleased with the job I've done over the past year. However, in the area of goal-setting, I do feel that there is some room for improvement, including:

* I wonder if it isn't time to take a look at the printed and online calendars to give them a facelift. We've been doing them the same way for years and years. I don't see anything wrong with the way we've been doing it, but might there be ways to make them more useful if we took time to reinvent them? Ever since taking this job, I've felt that we could use Google Maps to add value to the calendar, for example (and I really have no excuse for not having done that before now!). Perhaps there might be different ways to highlight new or infrequent (or annual?) events so they stand out? Perhaps there are other ways to organize events, perhaps grouping them into categories or by location? I'd like to see some creative people get together and kick around ideas for improving our calendar to make it better. I'd welcome volunteers for that brainstorming project, because I know I'm not the only one with ideas for how it can be improved.

* I want to make more of an effort to reach out to neighboring chapters, specifically with regard to getting to know my counterparts in those chapters. I believe there's more we could be doing to announce our events in their newsletters and vice versa. We do a fair amount of interchange with Orange County, but I really ought to know better who my counterparts are in other nearby chapters so that we can do better at keeping each other informed of events that might be of interest. That sort of outreach would benefit not only the RG (both ours and theirs), but potentially also other large events such as the GLAAM Picnic & Potluck or the Hollywood Bowl.

=== Calendar Editor's Report: ===

Monthly report: Perry LaNaro has organized a Santa Monica Happy Hour and Dinner on May 4th which was submitted too late to be included in the May newsletter. He plans to make this a recurring event, although at the moment, we don't know how often he plans to do this.

Annual report: As I indicated above, I'd like to see a group of creative people give the calendar a facelift or even a whole reinvention, both visually and organizationally. With that said, I think the past year has gone very well. I think the calendar, by and large, has succeeded in meeting the needs of the membership and the organizers of our various events. Also, a huge thank-you to Karen Star for redesigning the newsletter's back page!

=== Data Officer's Report: ===

Monthly report: I just got word that someone who should have been receiving our newsletter electronically hasn't been on the newsletter announcement list. I'm not sure how that happened, but ... yikes! Next time I get membership data -- which will happen in early May -- I'm going to carefully make sure that everybody is on that announcement list who should be. Also note that that data update in early May will tell us whose memberships have lapsed; I encourage the Membership Committee and the Area Secretaries and Delegates to let me know how I can be helpful where member retention is concerned.

Annual report: I feel that the membership data we've received has been very useful to the chapter in that it has given us the means to set up and maintain announcement lists, to distribute the newsletter electronically, and to produce our first-in-a-long- while printed roster, but if there's more that we could be doing, please let me know. For example, for the last several months, I've been generating a monthly report for the Hi-Desert Secretary of changes to the membership in that Area; if other Area Secretaries want that information, I'm happy to provide it, but I need them to let me know what they need.

=== Roster Coordinator's Report: ===

Monthly report: No news; all is well.

Annual report: I think the past year's roster went well; a huge thank-you to Karen Star for her assistance with that. When the next printed roster goes to press, do we want to do anything differently? Also, is there anything I can be doing in between the annual roster preparation that would be helpful to the chapter? For example, would it be helpful to print supplementary updates (e.g. quarterly) in the newsletter?

=== SIG Coordinator' s Report: ===

Monthly report: For the Hollywood Bowl concerts in July, all Beethoven tickets are spoken for, with a growing waiting list, and 38 of 80 Bugs Bunny tickets are paid for.

Annual report: As always, I wish I had a better sense of how to energize our SIGs. I hope that everybody who wants to start or join a SIG knows how to do so. I wonder if I can be doing something more to make GLAAM's SIGs more vibrant and more visible. 2009's Hollywood Bowl concert was a success, if we overlook the number of tickets requested by people who didn't show up to claim them. This year's concerts are looking good too. I am very pleased with the way the new weeknight concert idea has been received. We definitely need to do that again in the future, maybe even including more weeknight concerts, and definitely purchasing more of those tickets next time.

=== Webmaster's Report: ===

Monthly report: I need finalized board minutes for Oct 2008, for Mar 2009, and for Sep 26, 2009 to the present. I also need an agenda for Feb 2010.

Annual report: I'm happy with the job I've done keeping the web site current. As always, I welcome suggestions for ways to make it more useful and more relevant. I wonder if there are ways that I haven't thought of to make it more helpful to more people.

Brian
-^=-

Gifted Youth

As GYC (Gifted Youth Coordinator) , I send out e-mails to a long list of Mensa and non-Mensa families with kids from very young to 17 years old. Some e-mails are for activities, others are informational. When the activities are planned far enough in advance, I put them in the Calendar and in the LA Mentary. I have submitted articles for the most recent 3 or 4 LA Mentaries. I started the year asking parents to step in and start planning activities (because my Mensa youth, Case, is now off at UC Berkeley). I asked them to fill in the background check so they could supervise activities. I actually got good response. Unfortunately, I had missed the detail that only parents who are, themselves, Mensans may submit the background checks. One parent in the SF Valley, Kendi Kim, started organizing activities anyway (I have been supervising) .

Then I found the path to success. Find a parent who says, "The activities you are putting on are too far away from us." Through a series of questions, lead them into planning an activity convenient to them. I look forward to more parent participation next year with this method.

Activities in 2009-2010 (when I mention "families", I am indicating at least one young person with at least one parent):

* Game Day is always available to the Mensa Youth, thanks to the graciousness of Michael Wong allowing them in, and the gentleness of the adult attendees when they realize that young people are in attendance. Although not every month, we often get a family or two showing up.

* In June '09 I planned "Shakespeare by the Sea", a free event, but had to cancel due to family concerns.

* On Nov. 1, several families came to the first GLAAM Picnic in Griffith Park. With all the great outdoors to enjoy, their predominant activity was Chess.

* On Nov. 20, about half a dozen families went to the Observatory. Kendi organized this activity.

* On Dec. 2, Kendi organized a house "Holiday" party in Northridge.

* On Jan. 24, 26 people, including 10 children, attended "Riverdance" at the Pantages Theater. A good time was had by all.

* On Feb. 14, about a dozen young people attended Kids' Track at the GLAAM RG. Activities included Werewolf, Geochasing, Lawyers' Games, and the game room. For the first time at a recent RG, we had a Chess Tournament for adults and youth. The Chess Tournament, which was organized by Ron Talkov, is a welcome addition to the RG, and I believe it will grow in popularity.

* On March 21, 36 of us attended "Alice in Wonderland" starring Johnny Depp at the El Capitan Theater. The attempt to have everyone meet for lunch did not work well, since it coincided with the LA Marathon, which ran right in front of the theater as we were assembling. Lesson learned - check for Marathons conflicting with your activities. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all.

* On April 4, about a dozen families went to MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art) for a special exhibit and demonstration of Graffiti Art. This was organized by Kendi. The final activity included making our own graffiti art on a bathroom wall.

* Mensa Youth were invited to form a Culture Quest Youth Team, but there was not enough spontaneous interest.

* On April 25, five families joined at the Juan Bautista de Anza Park in Calabasas for a Kids' Picnic. We had a wonderful time on a wonderful day. Melissa Larson worked on this activity.

* We have had meetings of the youngest potential Mensans. Children age 1 to 5 have met at homes on the Westside four or five times on Sunday mornings. The adults chat, the children play, and we all get to know each other. I expect this to be a core group that grows larger as the children grow older.

Future plans:

* I will be sending e-mails to encourage family attendance at the upcoming GLAAM Picnic on May 22.

* I intend to get tickets for "Hair" at the Pantages Theater. This may not be for younger children, but it will be fun for older youth and adults.

Informational e-mails, '09-'10:

* Xump Science Toys closing by 4/26/09 promised bargains galore.

* TV Opportunity for 9-15 year olds and their families in a "Family Feud" type game.

* Movie roll for 9-11 year old Arab boy.

* On-line seminar on 9/14/09 re: Advocacy for Gifted Children.

* Where to get "Horrible" Books for young kids - history written in kids' style with the nasty bits (mysteries, slavery, sacrifices, etc.) left in.

* High School Seniors Focus Group on 10/15/09.

* TV Show on Problem Solving asked to Screen Test Adults and Bright Children.

* Watch for 11 year old Mensan Chandler Frantz in the movie "Everybody's Fine!"

* Free Test Review for Mensa Qualification in February.

* Opportunity for 10-15 year olds in business study on Entertainment in April/May

I'm always open to more ideas for kids' activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Pinsky Walker

Continuing Positions – Statements of Intention

I'm happy to keep doing what I'm doing. At the same time, I have no doubt that there's a lot of creativity out there that could benefit the chapter, and if anybody wants to apply that creative energy to any of my tasks, I'm happy to talk about how to make that happen.

(Translation: don't let the fact that I'm doing these jobs stop anybody who might want to take them on!)

Brian Madsen – 04/14. See also Reports submitted 05/01 supra.

Dear Desiree..
yes, I'm interested in continuing as Proctor Coordinator / Testing Coordinator. .

(besides, I'm the only Proctor with a place for testing ...)

As an informatory note, the 5 GLAAM Proctors tested 139 candidates last year (possibly a few more I don't know about), with at least 49 qualifying for Mensa. Probably more like 70 qualified, but because of the way National reports these, candidates who join before the end of the month I'm never notified about. The majority of qualifying candidates do join (over 90%) I'm told...

Dave Felt – 04/14

I'm willing to continue as Election Chair for another year with the Board's approval. Full Election report is attached. Additionally, David Fenig added to Election Committee as Deputy Election Chair.

Jay Friedlander – 04/23

Submissions

Election Report March 2010
Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa Board of Directors

Jay Friedlander
 Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa Election Chair

The following Board members continue into the second year of their two-year terms.

OFFICES	TERMS	RETURNING MEMBER
East Los Angeles County Area Delegate	Two Years	Kai-An Yu
Hi-Desert Area Secretary	Two Years	Linda Robinett
Member At Large	Two Years	Desiree Sagray

The following offices received one petition by the close of the filing period at noon on February 20, 2010, which has now been validated by the Election Chair. These candidates are now officially declared elected to the 2010-2011 GLAAM Board of Directors and their new terms will begin in May, 2010.

OFFICES	TERMS	CANDIDATE DECLARED ELECTED
Mid-City Area Secretary	Two Years	Charles Lindenblatt
San Fernando Valley Area Delegate	Two Years	Sandra Smith
East Los Angeles County Area Secretary	Two Years	Michael Wong
Hi-Desert Area Delegate	Two Years	Jennifer Venola
Member At Large	Two Years	Jonathan Elliott
Member At Large	Two Years	Danielle Hanne
Member At Large	One Year	Madeline Walker

There were no petitions submitted for the following offices. They will be considered vacant as of the May 2010 Board of Directors meeting. The Board may fill the vacancies during that meeting for the remainder of the 2010-2011 term. These offices will be open again for petition in the 2011 GLAAM Board of Directors election, along with the three offices held by Returning Members described above and the Member At Large office to be filled by Madeline Walker as of May, 2010.

VACANT OFFICES
Mid-City Area Delegate
Coastal Area Secretary
Coastal Area Delegate
San Fernando Valley Area Secretary
Member At Large