

# GLAAM Board of Directors

## Official Minutes

February 6, 2016

Pilgrim Towers, 440 N. Madison Av., Pasadena

	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Delegate</i>	<i>Members-at-Large</i>
Mid-City	[X] J. Hobart	[O] Liz Cheney	[/] Desiree Elliott (ar12:05)
Coastal	[O] Greg Tomich	[X] Madeline Walker	[X] Andrea Nolan
SFV	[X] Joyce Hamilton	<i>vacant</i>	[/] Gene Schneider (ar11:27)
ELAC	[X] Jonathan Elliott	[/] M. Wong (ar12:19)	[X] Sandra Smith
Hi-Desert	[/] L. Ross (ar11:33)	[X] Bruce Smith	[X] Lee Stillman
Inland Empire	[O] Tammy Somesla	<i>vacant</i>	[/] Ron Talkov (lv12:33)

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

*Guests:* Jennifer Carter (ar11:33, lv11:44), Jonathan Cole, Brian Madsen (lv1:15), Jerilyn Phippeny

### I. Opening

A. **Call to Order** -- by Chairman Smith at 11:09am.

B. **Approval of Agenda** -- Secretary Elliott reported the recent request to add a New Business item, and that two more written reports were received prior to the meeting and entered into the Agenda. Moved (Walker/Stillman) to approve the Agenda as amended; carried with one abstention.

C. **Approval of Previous Minutes** -- Moved (Walker/S. Smith) to approve the Minutes as submitted; carried with one abstention.

### II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

#### 1. Chairman:

- Has volunteered to start writing newsletter columns. Has always wanted to do it, and is now motivated because it helps for the ACE awards. Motion offered (Walker/Hamilton) to add a New Business item "Request to reconsider previous Board action regarding event titles"; carried with one abstention.

B. Area Reports

#### 1. Mid-City:

- Secretary Elliott read written report from Area Delegate Cheney, as entered into the Agenda.
- Area Secretary Hobart added that the October "bring-a-friend-meet-a-friend" party has yielded one new Mensa member, who again had found it helpful that she could submit prior evidence.

- Hobart also reported that the coming movie night will offer free tickets to the first 10 respondents.
2. **Coastal:**
    - Had another Sunday Salon, with a “full long table of people”, approximately 14.
  3. **SFV:**
    - Had regular Saturday event, at Mendocino Farms, with 10 people.
    - There were 12 at Vietnamese restaurant Pho. Other people who were unable to go yet expressed that they were “intrigued”. Suggestion came courtesy of S. Smith, who “spent her childhood there”.
  4. **ELAC:**
    - There were 6 people at recent event.
  5. **Inland Empire:**
    - Walker reported message from Area Secretary Somesla that the Super Bowl party is still happening.

D. Committees and Coordinators

1. **Awards:**
  - Annual tabulations complete for the 2014-15 award year.
  - We have drawn conclusions from the numbers which we plan to report at the March meeting, after the big reveal at the RG.
2. **Bylaws:**
  - Committee has expanded to include Brian Madsen and J. Hobart, so now up to 7 members. Thanks to both.
  - We have continued to work by regular e-mail (not by Yahoogroups anymore) on the remaining items in our ‘laundry list’, and have packaged the easiest remaining items for reporting to the Board in the present Agenda.
3. **Gifted Youth:**
  - “It’s been a little bit interesting.” Discouraged that several new appointees have done nothing. Has worked with Committee member Johanna Petree on a note to the Committee, which has resulted in several suggestions for activity, so now encouraged again.
5. **Regional Gathering:**
  - Committee Chair Walker distributed at this time a single-sheet schedule summary.
  - There have been 50 paid so far, total attendance with speakers expected to be 75-80, which is consistent with the original expectation. Not expecting a lot of walk-in traffic.

II. B. Area Reports (*continued*)

6. **Hi-Desert:**
  - Schneider reported that they are entertaining a visitor from Sweden. Found a local member who speaks Swedish, and they have

been communicating in Swedish by e-mail, with English translations for those copied on the messages.

II. D. Committees and Coordinators (*continued*)

6. **Special Events:**

- The “AG is cooking along”, still working on speakers.
- New Gifted Youth person at national office has had trouble connecting with the Fleet Space Center in San Diego, so daughter Ariana (who works there) connected with them, and they now are planning a day-long activity for the AG.
- The AG Program Chair has been having trouble finding a bookseller to work the event, so daughter Ariana has sent three potential names.
- April movie night still needs message encouraging participating Areas to communicate with Calendar Editor Madsen.

7. **Circulation:**

- “We’re on time this month, so yay!”

8. **Data Officer:**

- Got reports out to everybody last night, so also on time.

9. **Historian:**

- Got call from daughter of Mary Kimball, pursuant to Historian Ross’s call from a couple of years ago, reporting that they finally located our newsletter archive. Will need funds to cover shipping from Oregon.

10. **Scholarships:**

- Is also the Regional Scholarship Chair.
- Slightly frustrated with the local program, because still waiting on one judge.
- Judges have commented that the quality of the essays has gone up this year.
- Regionally, not sure what’s going on yet, except that 300 people from the Region have volunteered to help with the judging, prompting national to ask her what she did to generate that level of response.

11. **MensaPhone:**

- Schneider reported not having heard anything about the MensaPhone lately, and that she is willing to take it if desired.
- Chairman Smith reported having received a complaint about a certain call not receiving a response.

12. **Open Forum:**

- Has a “spectacular” venue available to us in the South Tower in Century City.
- Got a speaker for Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>, being a Mensan from Australia who wrote a book about “travel on the cheap”. Has 5 RSVP’s so far.

- The management of the venue thinks that partnering with us will enhance their image, so hoping that will be up to the challenge of providing good speakers.
- Selected that area because of Data Officer Madsen’s map showing high concentration of members there.
- Some discussion at this time of optimal days for planning events.
- Requested at this time small budget for refreshments and parking. Treasurer Elliott noted that this would require Board approval, as an appropriation in excess of budget. Ross asked for addition to the Agenda. Motion offered (Walker/Stillman) to add a New Business item “Storage space”; carried with one abstention. Motion offered (J. Elliott/B. Smith) to add a New Business item “Open Forum budget”; carried with one abstention.

13. **SIGHT:**

- Advance report appeared in Agenda.

14. **Webmaster:**

- Secretary Elliott read written report via Area Delegate Cheney, as entered into the Agenda.

15. **Calendar Editor:**

- All is well.

**III. Special Orders**

**A. Filling of Vacant Board Positions:**

**1. SFV Area Delegate:**

Jerilyn Phippeny introduced herself for consideration: She recently joined Mensa, went to Mendocino Farms, had a great time; topic came up there of the vacancy; doesn’t have a lot of spare time, but is young and enthusiastic and eager to help out. Phippeny nominated (Hamilton) for SFV Area Delegate; approved unanimously.

**II. B. Committees and Coordinators (*continued*)**

**16. RVC:**

- Budget meeting was last Saturday. There definitely is a movement toward better data-driven numbers for some things. For those interested, National Treasurer Salkin has announced a podcast before the AMC meeting.
- Interesting couple of months in the Region. Mensa Hawaii had a problem with their initial election, as raised by their Ombudsman, so re-did their election, including with a Gifted Youth member possibly ending up on their Board. The national Communications Committee has formed a subcommittee to explore what the environment would be like if official items could be communicated in venues other than the chapter newsletter. RVC9 (a member of the Communications Committee) suggested working with Greater Phoenix Mensa, who were contacted and are participating in the sub-committee's work.
- The AG is in Region 9 this year.

III. Special Orders (*continued*)

B. **Funding and possible scheduling for Hollywood Bowl 2016:**

Jonathan Cole reported that the schedule has not been released, and that tickets will yet go on sale on Tuesday 2/16; requesting that we make arrangements for 2-3 weeknight events and 1 weekend event. D. Elliott suggested discussing it at the Annual Business Meeting; warmly received by the group. Discussion of funding. Discussion of seat cushions; Schneider suggested encouraging attendees to bring their own. Treasurer Elliott reported past gross expenditures (i.e., not reflecting any ticket income) of \$1181 in 2012, \$2326 in 2013, and \$1189 in 2014. Motion offered (D. Elliott/Stillman) for an amount not to exceed \$1750 for purchase of Hollywood Bowl events which include one Saturday with the picnic area and three weeknight classical-music events, programs to be determined at the Annual Business Meeting on February 13; carried with one abstention.

IV. **Unfinished Business**

B. **2016 AG Party Bus for GLAAM Members:**

D. Elliott did not get calls back from bus agencies; hopes to be able to send out a survey on member interest using "Google Doodle"; will report results later.

C. **Community Service Project:**

D. Elliott reported that the pilot program had "a little bit of a hiccup"; GLAAM is included in the next wave of testing; still awaiting information from national.

V. **New Business**

A. **Approval of ABM Minutes:**

J. Elliott opened by reading the notes appearing in the Agenda, for those who had not yet seen it, and offered the listed motion on behalf of the Bylaws Committee, so not requiring a second, *viz.*:

<begin quote>

(1) That we codify current practice permanently by adopting the following text as a new Standing Rule:

"In order to allow the Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting to be shared with the GLAAM Membership on a timely basis, and to encourage corrections to be suggested while recollection of the Meeting is still relatively fresh in the minds of the attendees, the Secretary shall arrange with the Editor to publish a draft of the Minutes in the earliest available issue of the Newsletter after the Annual Business Meeting has taken place, and with the Webmaster to post the draft of the Minutes on the Website at earliest practical opportunity. In both cases, there shall be a prominent statement to the effect that the posting is only a draft, and that it has not yet been approved by the GLAAM Membership. The Secretary shall then collect any correction suggestions which may be submitted, and arrange (including by working with a successor Secretary, if applicable) to have them incorporated as appropriate into a new Minutes draft which must then

be offered for approval by the voting GLAAM Membership at the next Annual Business Meeting. The approved version will then be posted on the Website at earliest practical opportunity."; and,

(2) That this new Standing Rule be referenced as applicable in the next update of the Secretary's Guidelines.

<end quote>

Stillman suggested possibility of considering the Minutes approved if no strenuous objection is offered within 2-3 months; J. Elliott responded that this may be possible, but that he yet prefers the definitive appearance of a definitive approval. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Circulation of draft Board Minutes:**

J. Elliott opened by reading the notes appearing in the Agenda, for those who had not yet seen it, and offered the listed motion on behalf of the Bylaws Committee, so not requiring a second, *viz.*:

<begin quote>

That we codify current practice permanently by requiring the following language to be incorporated within the next update of the Secretary's Guidelines:

"When publishing draft Minutes for review to the Board of Directors, the Secretary should also send a copy to any elist or listserv of GLAAM appointed officers, including the various Committee Chairs and Coordinators, partly so that any other attendee will be in a position to offer corrections as may be applicable, and also so that the most active volunteers of GLAAM can receive an early report of everything which was said and done."

<end quote>

D. Elliott stated that she enthusiastically supports the motion. Motion approved with one absention.

**C. Attendance at Board meetings:**

J. Elliott opened by reading the notes appearing in the Agenda, for those who had not yet seen it, and offered the listed motion on behalf of the Bylaws Committee, so not requiring a second, *viz.*:

<begin quote>

That we adopt a new Standing Rule which amplifies Paragraph XIII-C-6 of the GLAAM Bylaws (allowing all Mensa members to attend all Board meetings) without contradicting it, and That the Standing Rule include reservation by the Board of the right to dismiss any non-Mensan from the room whom it doesn't like or doesn't trust:

"GLAAM Board meetings shall generally be open to all Mensa members and their invited guests. However, the Board of Directors reserves the right to excuse any non-Mensan from attending, for which excusal a simple majority of Board members present and voting shall be sufficient."

<end quote>

Amendment offered (Phippeny/J. Elliott) to add "current dues-paid" after "all" and before "Mensa"; amendment approved with one abstention. Main motion as amended approved with one opposed.

**D. Recording devices at Board meetings:**

J. Elliott opened by reading the notes appearing in the Agenda, for those who had not yet seen it. Motion (Phippeny/Walker) carried to reconsider the previous Board action. Phippeny noted that many other organizations absolutely forbid any recording, and that she has a general feeling of foreboding with the present policy. Discussion. D. Elliott supports the Secretary having the option to record the meeting for personal use, and then to destroy the recording after Minutes preparation; reported that the national Bylaws have been amended to record AMC meetings; current actual practice is that an official recording is posted on the website temporarily and then removed later. Schneider reported her experience as a Secretary that recording helped her with identifying speakers. Phippeny feels that the current policy may be good, but she has concerns about privacy and safety. Item to be carried forward.

**E. Area review:**

D. Elliott opened by reporting Area populations as of 12/2015 [*viz.*, Mid-City 401, Coastal 590 (incl. 365 for Subgroup 2 and 235 for Subgroup 7), SFV 476, ELAC 316, Hi-Desert 144, Inland Empire 139], and the numbers of events held in the different Areas during 1/2016; Coastal has had the greatest diversity in their events; it has been two years since absorbing Harbor Area and part of Inland Empire, so taking the opportunity to review Area boundaries; not specifically recommending any one course of action, but rather seeing that different possibilities are possible. Discussion of scheduling of official Area events; D. Elliott took notes for what different Areas are currently aiming for. Motion (D. Elliott/Schneider) to extend meeting 10 minutes passed at 1:02. Item to be carried forward, following discussion on the CC's list.

**F. Request to reconsider previous Board action regarding newsletter titles:**

Review of previous discussion for the newer Board members, including examples of certain previous newsletter titles. Walker reported feedback from the Gifted Youth community that anyone who understands what the questionable acronyms spell is not being damaged by the titles; member Nikki Frey appears to raise this issue with every new Editor. Further discussion of whether the practice creates an image problem for our group. D. Elliott suggested maybe including a clear disclaimer statement in the Calendar that event titles are driven by individual member coordinators. Motion (D. Elliott/Schneider) to extend meeting 10 minutes passed with three abstentions at 1:12. Further discussion. Motion offered (Phippeny/Schneider) to order that any potentially offensive acronym in the newsletter be printed with a prominent note that the title came from an individual, and is not in any way affiliated with the official organization. Discussion. D. Elliott suggests a general statement in the Calendar instead of a separate statement for each event title; moved (D. Elliott/Phippeny) as an amendment. Motion (Phippeny/Stillman) to carry the item forward passed with two abstentions.

**G. Storage space:**

Walker reported that member Jay Friedlander sent forward the possibility of an alternative facility in Walnut for storage, because the price at the current facility has been increasing; a 5x10 space would cost \$53.55/month during the first year and \$62/month thereafter; we need to decide now because of the current

RG. Motion (D. Elliott/S. Smith) to extend meeting 10 minutes passed with three abstentions at 1:22. Walker continued that 6x10 and 5x12 spaces are also available, at \$62.05/month during the first year and \$73/month thereafter. Motion offered (Phippeny/D. Elliott) that we change storage facilities to the proposed location, and that we move all contents to the new location after the upcoming RG. Motion offered (D. Elliott/J. Elliott) to suspend the rules on meeting length; passed 11-1-1. Schneider feels that it would be good to do this now, and then move it somewhere else next year if we wish. D. Elliott reported that there appear to be no cheaper alternatives in more central locations, and that we are being asked now because we already are visiting the storage facility with several cars for the RG. J. Elliott noted that individually prefers a more central location, and noted as Treasurer that we can easily afford the current location. Motion offered (Phippeny/Schneider) to order the previous question; approved 10-1-2. Main motion failed 0-9-4.

**H. Open Forum budget:**

Motion offered (Schneider/Phippeny) to provisionally authorize \$100 per month for the Open Forum; carried with one abstention.

**VI. Closing**

**A. Good of the Order**

- Discussion of parking considerations at the Century City location of the Open Forum.
- Hamilton reported that she became aware of two member deaths with Stratton Lindenmeyer and Carol Spearman. B. Smith added that Herb Selwyn has also deceased.

**B. Adjournment** -- Motion (Phippeny/Stillman) to adjourn approved at 1:52.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Elliott  
Secretary