

GLAAM Board of Directors

Official Minutes

March 5, 2016

Pilgrim Towers, 440 N. Madison Av., Pasadena

	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Delegate</i>	<i>Members-at-Large</i>
Mid-City	[X] J. Hobart	[X] Liz Cheney	[X] Desiree Elliott
Coastal	[X] Greg Tomich	[X] Madeline Walker	[X] Andrea Nolan
SFV	[X] Joyce Hamilton	[X] Jerilyn Phippeny	[O] Gene Schneider
ELAC	[X] Jonathan Elliott	[X] Michael Wong	[X] Sandra Smith
Hi-Desert	[/] L. Ross (ar12:02)	[X] Bruce Smith	[X] Lee Stillman
Inland Empire	[O] Tammy Somesla	<i>vacant</i>	[/] Ron Talkov (lv12:02)

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

Guests: Vickey Kalambakal, Brian Madsen (ar11:14), Andrew Merenbach

I. Opening

A. **Call to Order** -- by Chairman Smith at 11:05am.

B. **Approval of Agenda** -- D. Elliott requested a New Business item C “Survey Monkey purchase of Select Annual Plan”. Moved (Walker/Nolan) to approve the Agenda as amended; carried with one abstention.

C. **Approval of Previous Minutes** -- RVC Elliott asked for a correction to her report, specifically to remove the phrase “At the urging of Mensa Phoenix” and to add the sentence “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.” For item V-E “Area Review”, D. Elliott noted that her numbers had been left out; Secretary Elliott responded that they simply had gone by too fast for him to write them down; agreed to insert numbers appearing on paper exhibit submitted at this time. D. Elliott asked whether the texts could be included of the main motions originally offered in New Business items A, B, and C; Secretary Elliott responded that his former practice was to repeat the texts in the Minutes of motions previously noticed in the Agenda, but that he stopped doing so years ago, in response to suggestions that his Minutes may have been too lengthy; asked other Board members at this time for their current feelings on the matter; Hamilton responded that brevity is less important in the current electronic environment than it was in “the Dark Ages” when we were more dependent on paper; general agreement to restore the motion texts. Moved (Stillman/Talkov) to approve the Minutes as amended; carried with one abstention.

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

1. Chairman:

- E-mail blasts can be very effective, as shown by 84 people recently joining Facebook, and still straggling in. We now have 10% of our

membership on Facebook, which improved our eligibility for an ACE award.

2. **Secretary:**

- Took the minutes for the recent Annual Business Meeting of the Membership, and submitted the unapproved draft to the Editor and Webmaster. Second draft of last year's Minutes has been deemed approved.

3. **Treasurer:**

- Jonathan Cole has reported that he has completed the purchase of tickets for the Hollywood Bowl, including the picnic area for the Saturday show. Total cost came to \$1391, as compared with the authorized \$1750. We did not include any pricing decisions in our funding authorization this year, but after consultation with Brian Madsen, Jonathan is planning to charge the Saturday attendees 50% of the \$17 ticket cost (rounded up), and we spring for the picnic area and all the weeknight tickets, which all sounds good to Treasurer Elliott unless the Board has any strenuous objection, in which case let us please agendaize the matter for the present meeting, because Jonathan is waiting for Board confirmation of the pricing policy before he starts to develop publicity for the upcoming season. No objection stated.
- Lindsay Ross has asked for payment of \$36.90 for postage to send us the newsletter archive, and \$22.78 for refreshments for the 2/25 Open Forum, neither of which is budgeted, but will proceed if no one on the Board expresses a strenuous objection. None stated.

B. Area Reports

1. **Mid-City:**

- Downtown Dinner in February had 7 attendees. There will be another one a week from today, along with another “bring-a-friend-meet-a-friend” party at J. Hobart’s house.
- There have been 6-7 RSVP’s for the movie night in April.

2. **Coastal:**

- There will be another Bike Ride next Sunday morning.
- Walker invited Kalambakal to talk about the Sunday Salon, and she reported that it has been going great.

3. **SFV:**

- There was a party on the 3rd Saturday, but there was concern because it was right after the RG, and immediately before Stratton Lindenmeyer’s wake, but still had 8 people, including 2 new members.
- Thursday Dinner had 16 people, including new member Christina Watkins, a granddaughter of Henry Miller.
- Craig Lancaster has Stratton’s Mensa banner, and would like for it to be placed in our storage.
- Phippeny is planning a Happy Hour and Game Night.

4. **ELAC:**

- More people are coming to the Gaming Party.

- Surprised that there were only 5 members from ELAC attending the RG in nearby Ontario. Caused a problem because we could not get the required 10 signatures on our Area petitions, so J. Elliott petitioned for Member-at-Large, and will be nominating Wong for appointment as ELAC Secretary at the May Board meeting.

5. **Inland Empire:**

- D. Elliott reported that Somesla had sent an e-mail announcing that she will not be able to continue as Area Secretary, but that hopefully she can still be Area Delegate.

C. Members-at-Large

1. **Elliott:**

- Enjoyed the RG, it was awesome, thanks to people.
- Starting up Dim Sum Sunday.
- Noticing more traction in discussions within the Facebook group with new increase in participation.
- Dave Felt is looking to retire as Testing Coordinator, but hopefully we can still use his faculty connection to conduct tests at Caltech, although we will need another location eventually.

2. **Smith:**

- Gave Phippeny her handbook.

D. Committees and Coordinators

1. **RVC:**

- Had great session at the RG.
- OC Mensa is running into an issue where a young person shows up at an event, sees a mostly older crowd, and then never shows up again. Hoping to remedy this by establishing a mentoring program.
- Alan Stillson observed that we need to facilitate information-sharing across the Region. Will see if it can be implemented.
- Borderline Mensa apparently will be folding into Phoenix, because their existing volunteer base is having health issues.
- Hawaii has hit bumps, but is still proceeding with their plans for October 2017.

2. **Awards:**

- Made annual big announcement before the keynote speech at the recent RG.
- Prepared annual awards article for newsletter, and submitted to Editor on 16-Feb, but there was not enough room in the March issue, so planning for it to appear in April.
- Wrote a Letter-to-the-Editor to summarize Stratton's volunteer career. Planning another one for Herb Selwyn to appear in April.
- In addition to the new Silver and Platinum awards announced at the RG, noting that Jonathan Elliott has earned the unofficial equivalent of his 5th star by surpassing 375 points.

- Performed some additional research and found that while we had given credit to Dave Felt for his long tenure as Testing Coordinator, we had not yet credited him with his service as an individual Proctor, which is a completely separate function. It had not been documented in the sources originally researched, but we recently found it in a listing prepared by the national office. We tentatively figure that we owe Dave another 36 points as a result, which would put him way above the threshold for the unofficial equivalent of his 6th star.
 - Between Jonathan's 5 stars and Desiree's 4 and Michael Wong's 2, we now have 11 stars residing in one house in Sierra Madre, which makes it the closest thing to a GLAAM Headquarters House as we have until one comes along.
 - As announced at the RG, nobody made Bronze this year. In addition, there almost certainly will not be a new Bronze next year, and probably not the year after that but maybe. However, advances are happening among previous Hall-of-Fame inductees, suggesting to us that existing volunteer stars are still doing most of the work, when we should be moving to shift the load to the newer volunteers, partly to give the veterans a break but primarily to ensure the sustainability of our society, and to avoid what is currently happening with Borderline Mensa. We therefore are encouraging all existing members of the Hall of Fame, especially at the Gold and Platinum levels, to follow the example recently set by Brian Madsen with the Webmaster duties, and start looking more actively for qualified candidates to replace us in the bigger jobs, and looking for them from among members who have not been inducted into the Hall of Fame yet, or who currently occupy a lower level than where you are, and the sooner the better.
3. **Bylaws:**
- In between other tasks for other committees, we have been actively continuing our discussions on various laundry-list items, either by group e-mail or by in-person caucuses at the Headquarters House. Will continue to add report items to the Agenda whenever we conclude deliberations on any given topic.
 - Most recent topic is on residency requirements for Area officers, both as to what sort of residency requirements we ought to have for Area officers (if any), and as to the specific language of the Standing Rule which we are in the process of constructing to define the intended conditions of residency more clearly than they currently are indicated in the Bylaws.
4. **Elections:**
- D. Elliott noted that the Election Report was published in the newsletter.
5. **Gifted Youth:**
- Has one active assistant planning an event for April 24.

6. Membership Outreach:

- D. Elliott reported at this time that the MensaPhone had 3 calls, all testing-related, including one from a teacher in the SFV.
- Also received a personal call on the way to the RG from someone asking about prior evidence.
- Getting new members actively engaged often improves their membership experience.

7. Regional Gathering:

- Committee Chair Walker reported that the RG was really nice, and deferred to RG Treasurer Elliott, who reported that the paid attendance of 64 was only 79% of budget, but that overall expenses were held to only 95% of budget, such that the event had lost only \$93.93 as of Feb 29, which we consider to be a great result considering the good time that everybody had.

8. Special Events:

- We will have the Hollywood Bowl.
- We will have the 6-Area Movie Night.
- The AG has 4 speakers for each hour of speaker slots.
- Treasurer Elliott added that another Picnic is scheduled for April 16, for which only \$338.20 remains in the budget.

9. Circulation:

- Got out on time.

10. Historian:

- Carolyn Forbes is sending back a box of our newsletter archive.

11. Editor:

- Working with Karen Star on the April issue.

12. Open Forum:

- About 25 people attended the last event.
- Discussed at this time outreach efforts for the March 24 event.
- J. Hobart added that she and her wife Mary both liked it, and that her wife offered to write a review for the newsletter and other outlets.

13. SIGHT:

- Advance report appeared in Agenda.
- Chairman Smith added further notes from Arlette regarding a Mensa member from Italy looking to come here for temporary employment.

14. Singles:

- Was going to do an After-Dark Night, but they now charge \$30, so there is no demand.
- Still trying to figure out what to do that is not going to cost a lot of money.

15. SIG's:

- Multiple people have asked about an Entertainment Industry SIG, but we don't know how to get in touch with previous coordinator

Vesper Burnett. D. Elliott at this time suggested getting in touch with previous participant Rainbow Underhill.

16. Webmaster:

- National has updated our profile to read “www.glaam.org”, which is shorter than the previous version, but which still has “glaam” in it.

III. Special Orders

B. Filling of Vacant Committee/Coordinator Positions:

1. Social Media Coordinator:

Hamilton asked for clarification of what the position entails; D. Elliott described that it includes coordinating any social media which we use; Madsen noted that the hard part is marrying the Facebook handle with the Mensa membership number; D. Elliott added that we have a Facebook page separate from our Facebook group, that we also currently use Twitter and Instagram whereas Yahoogroups has been diminishing in activity, and that new platforms are welcome as they get created. Phippeny nominated herself, and described an extensive list of goals. Appointment approved with one abstention.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Progress on strategic goal of increasing member participation:

D. Elliott presented notes; she has observed an increase in electronic communication; Survey Monkey has worked well for member engagement with quick turnaround time; suggested putting out the Hollywood Bowl schedule in survey form going forward; liked seeing 25 people at the Open Forum, and there apparently are more going to Area events. J. Elliott offered suggestion conceived by D. Elliott that maybe we should be shifting our strategic focus from increasing member participation to lining up successors for all volunteer positions; Chairman Smith stated his feeling that it would be good to add this as a second strategic goal beginning in May 2016. Hamilton observed that we have not been getting reports back on the original strategic goal; Chairman Smith stated that he would follow up with AVC Schneider on her plans to continue collecting data.

B. 2016 AG Party Bus for GLAAM Members:

D. Elliott reported that Google Doodle didn't work, but that Survey Monkey did; GLAAM has e-mail addresses for 1,187 members; circulated survey form and survey results at this time; responses came from 39 people, of whom 22 said yes going, 11 were undecided, 5 not going, and 1 “What AG?”; wine tours and scenic drive to the event were most popular responses on features; personal preference is to travel on Tuesday and return on Monday, but Wed-Sun was the most popular response; intending to price out specific options, and to present them in a second survey.

C. Community Service Project:

D. Elliott submitted a written report at this time; reading from the report, she resummarized the background of the “Reach Out and Read” program, and described how Mensa can supplement the main program including by providing extra books for siblings and providing reading time; there are 138 “Reach Out and Read” sites through L.A. County, including 6-8 run by the Northeast Valley

Health Corporation; she personally visited the facility in San Fernando, which is open from 8a-9p Mon-Thu and from 8a-5p Fri-Sat; also visited facility in Van Nuys, which has shorter hours; facilities have been asking for a certain level of time commitment, but considering alternatives; recommends adopting one facility now, and then maybe adopt other facilities later if we have enough support, and can work with other facilities on the side in the interim; prefers to adopt the NVHC facility first, but the national committee recommends that we start smaller. S. Smith noted that the San Fernando facility is largely Spanish-speaking; D. Elliott responded that the kids usually have better English than the parents, and that we're trying to improve their English by reading to them in English. Motion (Stillman/Phippeny) to extend the meeting 10 minutes approved with one opposed and one abstaining at 1:00. Motion offered (D. Elliott/Stillman) from written report as follows: "GLAAM, as part of the National Mensa and Reach Out and Read Partnership, formally adopts the Northeast Valley Health Corporation facility and will continue to participate in the national pilot program." Motion carried with one abstention. Remaining motions in report will wait until we see what kind of response we get.

D. Recording devices at Board meetings:

Following the motion carried in February 2016 to reconsider the Board action taken in October 2012, new motion offered (Stillman/Walker) to approve the previous action without change. Phippeny asked to consider the added delicacy of financial discussions, and stated that she would like to have a more restrictive policy, because she is concerned about leaks. Motion (Phippeny/D. Elliott) to suspend the rules on meeting length carried with 3 opposed at 1:12. Previous question carried 10-0-4.

E. Storage space:

Walker reported about having to pack everything back in their car, and to make a separate trip after the RG, because the current storage facility closed earlier than expected; Friedlander had suggested deciding on a new facility shortly before the next RG, but Walker doesn't want to wait that long, because good spaces are running out; suggested a 5x10 space @ \$116/month at a facility on San Fernando Road by the 2 Freeway, open 7 days to 8:45p. Nolan suggested renting a trailer instead; Ross volunteered to research this option and report back.

F. Area review:

D. Elliott re-read her numbers on population distribution, and suggested the possibility of redrawing the boundaries to better recognize the diversity of the members in different Areas. Chairman Smith prefers to hold further discussion until we have more people present to discuss Hi-Desert and Inland Empire. J. Elliott asked to include a discussion of Nancy Weres' suggestion to make a certain change in the boundary between Inland Empire and Hi-Desert.

G. Request to reconsider previous Board action regarding event titles:

General agreement that everything should fail. Pending amendment as stated in the Agenda failed with all opposed except two abstentions. Pending main motion as stated in the Agenda failed with all opposed except two abstentions. Calendar Editor Madsen stated that he is "delighted with this outcome."

V. New Business

A. Social Media:

Social Media Coordinator Phippeny invited suggestions, and asked for the Agenda item to go away.

B. Scanning services:

Agreed to carry forward.

C. Survey Monkey purchase of Select Annual Plan:

D. Elliott presented specifics of Survey Monkey in terms of response limits; currently caps at 100 responses, but an annual purchase of \$228 would allow unlimited questions and unlimited responses. Phippeny suggested to involve the Social Media Coordinator; Chairman Smith suggested the two of them working together, and adding this item to next year's budget. Data Officer Madsen suggested that we consider the number of times per year that we will use this service, and that we probably don't want to do it more than 6-12 times per year, in which case \$228 might be too much. Webmaster Merenbach suggested WuFoo.

VI. Closing

B. Adjournment -- Motion (D. Elliott/Stillman) to adjourn approved at 1:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Elliott
Secretary