GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA MENSA Board Meeting

October 1, 2011 in Pasadena, California

I.A. Meeting called to order at 11:04 am by Jonathan Elliott.

Members present: Jonathan Elliott, Michael Wilson, Charles Lindenblatt, Ron Talkov, Michael Wong, Desiree Sagray, Danielle Hanne, Gene Schneider, Sandra Smith, Vesper Burnett, Madeline Walker

Guests: Brian Madsen, Russell Ham, Jay Friedlander, Daniel Tompkins

Excused Absences: Bruce Smith

I.B. Agenda: Additions to Agenda –

V.B. Arrangements for October picnic

V.C. Costco membership arrangements

With no objections, Agenda was approved as amended.

I. C. Approval of Previous Minutes is postponed to the November meeting.

II.A. Reports, Executive Officers:

Loc Sec (Elliott) –

1. Sagray resigned effective 11:49am on 14-Sep-2011, but she remains Scholarship Chair and RG Co-Chair and Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee; as XVC, Elliott assumed the title and responsibilities of the Chairman position pending special election to be held this day.
2. Bruce Smith has an excused absence for today.
3. Appointed self as Bylaws Committee Chair on 24-Sep, no other volunteers having stood forward for the job.

Executive Vice Chair (Elliott) – No report.

Secretary, Acting (Elliott) – Received 3 Board Members Handbooks from Desiree on 18-Sep, holding for new Secretary.

Treasurer (Elliott) –

1. Paid $1000 to the Postmaster on schedule.
2. New 5-month preliminary financial report includes Hollywood Bowl and RG account activity, but Elliott had not received the Hi-Desert statements for July or August; Schneider presented them to Elliott at this time.
3. Expected $1000 reimbursement for the Leadership Safari still was not recorded as an account receivable, (technically that should be ledgered at the moment that we generate the invoice, i.e. in this case, sent in the reimbursement form), because the original coordinator at the national level vacated the position.
4. There is no more 'prepaid entertainment' in the balance sheet, because the concerts at the Hollywood Bowl have now already happened.
5. Other factors contributing to the temporary net-loss are the fact that we already incurred $2400+ of RG expense with no income yet ledgered; testing income is down but we're hoping for a boost following National Testing Day; Amazon income got cut off sooner than we expected; paid 2/3 of the Postmaster expense before the middle of the year (maybe we should be talking about monthly amortization for that); and Special Events expense is a little ahead of schedule with another picnic and a cocktail party still anticipated for this fiscal year.

II.B. Reports: Area Reports –

Mid-city: No report

Coastal (Walker): Jessica Klein moved to San Francisco, resigning her post as Coastal Secretary.

San Fernando: No report

ELAC (Wong): Game party had 18 attendees. Dining events have had around 6 attendees.

II.C. Reports: Member-at-large –

Member at large (Hanne): No activity on Mensaphone. Will send Facebook announcement about Planetary Society airport/airplane experience on Saturday, Oct. 8.

Member at large (Schneider): High Desert Petroglyph Tour is scheduled for Oct. 22.

II.D. Reports: Standing Committees & Coordinators –

50th Anniversary Committee (Sagray): Mary Kimball has archive information, but Sagray has not been able to connect with her. Friedlander will give Sagray an e-mail address for her.

Awards Committee (Elliott):

1. Correction to last month: we thought one of our historical files had been lost and that we would need to resort to a less-complete backup; the versions available actually were the most current versions that there were.
2. Databases have been completed and scrubbed thru 4/1999, and augmented with new data thru 4/2004. Since I started a new half-time job and I had to slow down.
3. Desiree has been reappointed to the Committee as an individual.
4. In going through the recent newsletters, Elliott finds that the whole job of reviewing, cataloguing, tabulating and reporting takes about 6 hours for a whole year, in contrast with the 24 hours per year that it took in the earlier phases, so it appears that we overestimated the amount of work necessary to sustain this program, which is good.
5. Had mentioned briefly in a previous report about the possibility of establishing a special category in our Hall of Fame for 'honorable mentions' who didn't quite make the point cutoff, but we're finding that the process as originally constructed is already yielding us the names whom we expect to be receiving this permanent recognition, plus a couple of pleasant surprises, and therefore that no separate subjective category is necessary.

Elections (Friedlander): Will run a Special Election later in this meeting.

Finance (Talkov): We chose Enrique De La Cruz for our tax preparer. Taxes were filed on time.

Gifted Youth (Walker): Sent information to GY list regarding Jeopardy test for 8-12 year olds and the Planetary Society activity this Saturday.

R.G. Committee (Sagray/Walker):

1. Committee met on September 5 with several new participants.
2. Committee is still soliciting speakers.
3. Signatures for the RG bank account were updated this morning.
4. The Registration Flyer is available online and will be in the November LA Mentary.
5. Note (Madsen): Hazel Walker is our first person to register for 2012 RG.
6. Information was sent for inclusion of the RG in the Mensa Bulletin.
7. The next meeting will be Oct. 6.

Bylaws Committee (Elliott):

1. Audrey Wilson resigned as Chair of the Bylaws Committee.
2. As acting LocSec, Elliott appointed himself as Chair of the Bylaws Committee.
3. First task is to assemble the 'laundry list' of suggestions offered by various people. The committee will evaluate them and package some number of them for consideration by the Board.
4. Sandra Smith has volunteered as a Committee member, and Bill Taylor has expressed a possible interest.

Special Events Committee (Walker): We have group tickets to see “Wicked” at the Pantages on January 8.

Scholarship (Sagray): There was a delay in Applications online due to changes in the MERQ website. Applications are now available. We will look into mailing Applications to High School counselors, which we have done in the past.

Editor & Circulation (Ham): October newsletter went out yesterday.

Public Relations (Burnett):

1. Open Forum – no report
2. Multimedia presentation for 50th Anniversary – Need a secretary, need phone numbers for interviewees.

Data Officer (Madsen): All is well.

Roster (Madsen): The Roster was successfully compiled for September newsletter.

S.I.G.’s (Madsen): Hollywood Bowl events were completed successfully.

Webmaster (Madsen): No minutes had been received since April. Sagray handed over May, June, July and August minutes with corrections. Anyone who has changed e-mails should let Madsen know. The Ombudsman’s address needs updating.

Calendar Editor (Madsen): All is well.

SIGHT (Sagray): No report.

Singles (Elliott): Singles Mixer has been dissolved.

III. Special Orders (Friedlander):

1. Thanks go to Jessica Klein as Coastal Secretary, Audrey Wilson as Member-at-Large and Bylaws Chair, Jennifer Venola as High Desert Secretary and Board Secretary, and Desiree Sagray as LocSec and other positions, for their service to the GLAAM Board. For various reasons they have resigned and their positions are open.
2. Except for Madeline Walker as Coastal Rep who has a continuing position, all other Board positions will need to be filled next year. I encourage people to use the Election Petition.
3. Nominations were accepted for the position of LocSec. Bruce Smith, who had sent in a written acceptance, was elected by acclaim for the balance of this year.

Special Orders (Elliott) –

1. Since Bruce Smith was not attending, Elliott as XVC continued the meeting.
2. Nominations were accepted for the position of Board Secretary. Danielle Hanne accepted the nomination, and was appointed by acclaim for the balance of this year. Elliott transferred 4 Handbooks to Hanne.
3. Daniel (Danny) Tompkins was appointed as High Desert rep by acclaim.

IV. Unfinished Business – None.

V. New Business –

A. Board Activities

1. \*\*Motion (Schneider 1st, Hanne 2nd) to accept the schedule of Board meetings on the first Saturday of the month except for July (from 7th to 14th) and September (from 1st to 8th). With no objections, motion passed.
2. \*\*Madsen suggested changing the July meeting to June 30th to split the weeks better. Motion (Schneider 1st, Wilson 2nd) for the change to June 30. Vote: 10-1-0. Motion passed.
3. The Annual Business meeting was scheduled at the last meeting at the 2011 RG to be held at the 2012 RG.
4. Schneider reminded the Board that date changes need to be cleared with Pilgrim’s Tower.

B. October Picnic – Sagray was requested to continue hosting the picnic. She accepted as long as she can have Wong assist her.

C. Costco Arrangements –

1. The Costco membership card shared by Sagray and Wong has expired. Walker offered the use of her Executive Membership card, promising to be available for shopping trips before the picnic and the RG.
2. One of the ice chests is broken. Hearing no objection, Elliott directed Sagray to purchase a new ice chest.

Good of the Order:

1. Schneider announced the Petroglyph Tour on Oct. 16, $25/Mensans, $35/guests.
2. Hanne announced the Airplane Rides and a book signing by Mike Brand in Riverside on Sat., Oct. 8.
3. Madsen will arrange to have membership questions forwarded to Hanne. He needed Heather Kennedy’s address information.
4. Ham announced the LA Mentary was mailed yesterday.

Hearing no objections, Elliott called the meeting adjourned 12:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Pinsky Walker

October 4, 2011