# OFFICIAL MINUTES of the GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA MENSA BOARD of DIRECTORS

# Regular Meeting – April 2, 2011

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# I. Opening

#### A. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:15am by SAGRAY at Pilgrim Towers, 440 North Madison Avenue, Pasadena, with members ELLIOTT, SMITH, WALKER, and WONG present, along with guests Brian Madsen and Michael Wilson. Member HANNE arrived during the meeting. The Chair noted that a quorum was not present at the designated starting time of 11:00am.

# B. Approval of Agenda

Motion (WALKER/SMITH) to approve the Agenda as submitted; carried 4-0-1.

# C. Approval of Previous Minutes

ELLIOTT offered the following notes: (1) there should be two T's in "ELLIOTT"; (2) okay to use Secretarial judgment, if okay with the Board, but proper form per RRO is to specify in the current Minutes any corrections made to any previous Minutes, and to make those corrections by hand on the official file copy of the previous Minutes, so that anyone auditing those records later can easily see that the proper corrections were made to the Minutes, with no other changes besides; (3) very nice Treasurer's report, very clear and concise summary of the 5 items mentioned, no changes; (4) should replace the O in "GLAAMORAMA" with A, and then only "GLAAM" is capitalized; (5) without strenuous objection, would really like the adjective "Jared-like" in front of "diligence" in the Finance report. Moved approval (ELLIOTT/SMITH) of the March Minutes as corrected with items 1, 4, and 5; passed 4-0-1.

#### II. Reports

#### A. Executive Officers

CHAIRMAN – The AMC recently approved a change of the default receipt option for local newsletters from print to electronic; while we are not concerned in GLAAM with any reduced newsletter volume, it appears (notwithstanding that the Minimum Standard Bylaws have not been updated) that the recent ruling theoretically trumps the previously-adopted Minimum Standard Bylaws, but we're not sure; since our current local Bylaws indicate a default of paper distribution, we might have a problem complying with the national action; needs further research, possibly by the Bylaws Committee. It is election year for national officers.

XVC – Got a mailbox directly after the March Board meeting, for a 3-month trial period.

TREASURER – There was a question on a certain previous invoice from the printer; we requested a 12-month account history to reconcile with our internal ledger; reconciled OK, invoice paid. Toured Treasurer's records, and found remaining check stock, previous bills from MensaPhone and D&O providers, and two uncashed checks from last summer; submitted those checks on 3/21. Paid MensaPhone and D&O bills, MensaPhone scheduled to reactivate upon receipt, and D&O coverage continuing without interruption since we were still in the grace period. Distributed 11-month financial statements at this time, noting that they exclude any mention of RG incomes or expenses, since the final RG accounting had not yet been received by the Treasurer; current statement does include \$787 of proctor expenses, \$646 for D&O, and \$121 for MensaPhone; SAGRAY added that it was her fault that ELLIOTT had not yet received the final RG accounting.

## B. Area Reports

MID-CITY – The Chair reported that FLEMING is moving out of the Area, although we are not clear on the effective date.

ELAC - 19 people at recent party, "mostly Mensans"; proportion is usually 50-50 with non-Mensa gamers. Dining group is still going strong; they have more than 5 people. Steve Loeb wants to start a new dining activity in ELAC. NTN was a failure this past month, because WONG didn't hear his phone ring.

# C. Members-at-Large

WALKER – If possible, wants to discuss dates after meeting for possible activities, including a group trip to Dodger Stadium.

ELLIOTT – Heard from former A2E participant complaining that the SIG's meetings were too far away, and more generally that there are not any events downtown where she lives; ELLIOTT asked her about possibly making her residence available to A2E on a rotational basis, and reminded her about the Mid-City Dining & Discussion at Philippe's, although it starts at 5pm, and she says that as a single woman she doesn't like having to get to her car in that neighborhood after dark; also encouraged her to start a SIG of her own, but to be mindful of parking, which she says is indeed bad at her house. Has asked HANNE about working together to organize one or more group trips to Dodger Stadium this summer. Has discussed with Kate Harlan the fact of no recent clothing-optional events within GLAAM, and the possibility of organizing a daytrip to Black's Beach in San Diego; curious about anybody's reactions. Has submitted registration for GLAAMarama, comprising ELLIOTT as captain, with Maggie Bellisario and Gloria Greengard and Annette Hassell and Russ McConnell as primary players, and SAGRAY as alternate.

# D. Standing Committees

AWARDS – Has begun building master calendar of all national awards for which we want to set up automatic reminders on our internal lists; next step is for the

Chairman to send ELLIOTT a note with what else she knows about, and then we can conduct additional research as needed.

ELECTIONS – The Chair reported that both Jay Friedlander and David Fenig may be out of town for the May Board Meeting, so we will need to arrange for another designee; Brian Madsen volunteered at this time, he will talk to Jav. FINANCE – SAGRAY and ELLIOTT worked together to get the 2009-10 returns completed and filed; ended up costing \$530; for multiple reasons unrelated to cost, SAGRAY and ELLIOTT concur that we probably want to find another accountant to help with the current year's returns. Per the Chairman's request, completed a spreadsheet reconciling Bill Taylor's original 2009-10 income/expense statement (showing a \$7800 net loss) with the 8/2010 draft and the 12/2010 official version; available for review if anyone wants to see it. Interim income/expense statement contains (and generally will contain) an estimate of subsidy income, based on same month of prior year, plus a flat \$750 of estimated printer expense; current statement also includes estimates of telephone charges incurred during the month; will finalize all figures before yearend. Balance sheet for 3/31 shows a new "Prepaid entertainment" item, for the advance payment on Hollywood Bowl concerts to be attended next fiscal year, and also reflects the annual depreciation on our A/V equipment. The non-RG net income is approximately \$3650, so even a \$3000 net loss on the RG would leave us significantly ahead for the year, notwithstanding a budgeted net loss of app. \$1500, and it will not even be that much, because we did receive a sizable donation related to the RG; another big reason for our good performance is Amazon, with already over \$1300 of completely unbudgeted income. SAGRAY added that the San Diego chapter increased their scholarship awards owing to their increased Amazon income. SAGRAY also referred to a question that arose during the recent Annual Business Meeting, about the differences between the 8/2010 draft and the 12/2010 official version, noting now that part of the difference was from accruing a set of tax refunds to the preceding year, and that another part was because we ledgered 13 printer bills within 2009-10. MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH – The Chair noted that we are being sent a full set of mailing labels monthly that are not being used, due to our electronic addressing service; she will talk to Russell Ham about possible other uses. PROCTORED TESTING – The Chair reported that Dave Felt submitted his receipts for the year, well under budget, having tested 85 candidates.

At this time, a motion (SAGRAY/HANNE) was passed 5-0-1 to add an item E "Picnic Date" to New Business.

RG – We will not be in the hole as much as previously thought, maybe not at all; SAGRAY and Brian Madsen will have further meeting to reconcile. Looking at alternate venues to bring overall cost down, and to try to be more self-sustaining. Events have gone well, with everybody having a good time. Expect to have final report ready for the May Board Meeting, with recommendations for future locations.

#### E. Coordinators

DATA OFFICER – Has been getting electronic lists of membership changes for all of GLAAM by Area, and has been using this information to create a searchable database, but Hi-Desert has been the only Area to request it.

MENSAPHONE – Still not getting through; ELLIOTT will check into it.

SIGs – We have between 5-10 people for each concert; registration forms are available on the website.

WEBMASTER – The website "has been revamped a little bit", thanks to everybody who provided feedback, especially SAGRAY and BURNETT; SAGRAY noted that it now looks "awesome".

OMBUDSMAN – He is 12km off the coast of Abidjan, notwithstanding orders from the State Department to leave.

SINGLES – Had "5 or so folks" last month. Still trying to find substitute coordinator.

NEWSLETTER – Late this month for unknown reasons.

# III. Special Orders

#### A. Appointment of Young-M Coordinator

SAGRAY reported that Jennifer Carter has expressed interest, having previously attended Monica's and Singles and BITE/LATE; we can't appoint or dismiss SIG leaders, but we could create a Young-M Coordinator position if someone is stepping forward to coordinate events that may appeal to more than one generation. SAGRAY believes that Jennifer is interested in the position, but is not sure, so holding until next month.

#### V. New Business

#### A. RG Contract

SAGRAY reported that we currently do not have a draft contract for next year; will carry forward to next meeting for the incoming Board.

#### B. Newsletter Distribution

SAGRAY noted that she had discussed this during her Chairman's report; planning to discuss membership outreach for the new policy next month.

#### C. Discussion of Taxes

SAGRAY discussed timeliness and other problems with recent tax service. WALKER volunteered Linda Dorfmont at 310-675-1540. ELLIOTT will contact her for a quote.

# D. New meeting location

SAGRAY reported that we are at the normal location for the May Board Meeting, but that there may be a problem going forward, especially with the new facility administrator, but not sure. ELLIOTT noted conversation that morning with someone who indicated that we are perceived as a permanent fixture on the

facility schedule. SAGRAY's last conversation with facility management was about two weeks ago, with the sense that they would have contacted her again the next day if there were a problem, but they didn't, so assuming no problem, and removing this item from the Agenda until further notice.

#### E. Picnic Date

SAGRAY noted that April has 5 Saturdays, with 4 in May, and 5 Saturdays and Sundays in July. Agreeing for the weekend of July 23-24. ELLIOTT and SAGRAY expressed preference for Saturday, no objections from rest of Board. Also recommending second date of Saturday, October 22. Discussion of possible alternate venues. Agreed on tentative start time of 10:00am for both dates. Will have further venue discussion later, including at the May Board Meeting. Will discuss budget later.

### VI. Closing

#### A. Good of the Order

Madsen reported that Vera has signed up for the AG, even though she's a "woman who can't be talked into anything".

HANNE is speaking at the AG, representing the Planetary Society. WALKER is running Charades for the Kids Track.

WALKER is a Life Member.

Further discussion of Dodger trips. Can discuss further on BoD list.

# B. Adjournment

Motion (HANNE/WONG) to adjourn carried 6-0 at 12:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Elliott Acting Secretary