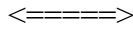


OFFICIAL MINUTES
of the
GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA MENSA
BOARD of DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting – November 6, 2010



I. Opening

A. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:00am by SAGRAY at Pilgrim Towers, 440 North Madison Avenue, Pasadena, with members ELLIOTT, LINDENBLATT, SMITH, VENOLA, and WILSON present. Members BURNETT, WALKER, and WONG arrived during the meeting. The Chair asked that ELLIOTT take notes for the Minutes. The Chair also noted that HANNE and ROBINETT have excused absences for this day.

B. Approval of Agenda

Motion (ELLIOTT/VENOLA) for approval of the latest version of the Agenda; carried 6-0.

C. Approval of Previous Minutes

August Minutes: Draft was submitted on 10/4, including restored section for Unfinished Business. No further objections stated. Motion to approve (VENOLA/ELLIOTT) carried 6-0.

September Minutes: ELLIOTT asked to change “revenue and income statements” in Section II-D (Finance) to “an income/expense statement”, and “\$16,500” for gross RG expense in Section III-A (Budget Discussion) to “\$16,000”. Motion to approve as corrected (VENOLA/WILSON) carried 6-0.

October Minutes: Motion to approve as submitted (VENOLA/SMITH) carried 5-0.

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

CHAIRMAN – Still do not have taxes done; should have been filed by 9/15; Sam Moses has done it in the past, in exchange for ad space in the newsletter, but we are evaluating alternative approaches; WONG found someone to do it for an \$800 fee. We must file taxes if the gross receipts for any year exceed \$25,000 averaged over two years; if we held an RG every other year, as has been suggested by WONG again, it would bring us under the \$25,000 average and it would not be necessary to file taxes every year; however, the Board has voted in the past to maintain a yearly RG, despite the tax filing requirement. We tested 30 people in conjunction with National Testing Day, but nationwide testing was down. Printers still have not received payment on about \$1200 of invoices over 2

months. The picnic was a “pretty good success”; has accounting to give to SMITH, including \$50 of expense for renewed Costco membership; 32 people attended, for about 1/3 of whom it was their first event ever.

XVC – Following discussion at a previous Board meeting, initiated search for the missing Board Members Handbooks; 9 are accounted for, and 1 appears to be with someone who does not have immediate access to it; still missing are the books for Coastal Secretary, ELAC Secretary, and Members-at-Large #3-5.

B. Area Reports

MID-CITY – Had Third-Thursday Thrill at Big Wang’s; one person besides LINDENBLATT showed up.

SFV – BURNETT has now had 2 networking events, and helped one person to find an agent. Has an idea for a Christmas party at a museum where she works and which has a Dickens-themed event for the public.

HI-DESERT – Christmas party in Mojave planned for 12/12; Barbara Bransford will provide turkey. First of the Month will be at the Carriage Inn Potpourri Restaurant on 12/1, and at VENOLA’s house with a potluck dinner on 1/1.

C. Members-at-Large

WALKER – 14 people will see “Hair”. “It’s gonna be fun.” There is a Chicken Dijon restaurant across the street.

D. Standing Committees

AWARDS – Initiated discussion with the Chairman to determine deadlines for submitting names for national awards. Started work on revised proposal for a local awards program, by inviting interested members on the CC’s list to join the Committee for pre-Board evaluation of the proposal, and by engaging in discussion on the BoD list as to various aspects of the proposal; planning to have full proposal ready for formal consideration at the December meeting.

FINANCE – ELLIOTT reported that SMITH has had technical difficulties with both her telephone answering machine and her e-mail account, but that he has received from her this day the bank statements surrounding 4/09 and 4/10, so now finally should be able to prepare a comparative balance sheet for 4/10.

GIFTED YOUTH – Wants to throw event for the 6-9 range, possibly at a Chuck E. Cheese. SAGRAY added that a mother at the picnic expressed a possible interest in hosting a chess tournament.

RG – “Things are proceeding very well.” Have had some more speaker suggestions following an e-mail notice. Registrations still only 20-30. Ed You will look for a cheaper place. Website needs further writeups for certain events. The Grand Poobah of the Baha’i Faith, the CEO of Mathanomics, and the area representative for HAM radio have been scheduled. A good dark alcove is nearby for actual stargazing with telescopes.

E. Coordinators

OPEN FORUM – “Still working on it.” Is in contact with friends who are looking at establishing a speaker series at a certain venue with a dome that allows 360° film projections.

ROSTER – Submitted written report.

SIGHT – Started on establishing a web presence.

PR – Has gotten feedback that some people are being turned off of Mensa by the old-fashioned image of the GLAAM website.

OMBUDSMAN – Chairman SAGRAY reported that Ombudsman Sagray will be out of the country until 2/20, except for a brief visit during the holidays.

SINGLES – Had 8 last month. “It was nice, it was good.”

NEWSLETTER – Ham appears to be recovering from recent medical procedures.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Discussing Length of RG

SAGRAY noted that a question was raised during a Committee meeting in August or September about timing, including that we don't always have a lot of people on Monday, that we need to set up on Thursday, and that some other RG's end on Sunday evening. Discussion. WALKER suggested making sure that we have our Annual Business Meeting on Monday, when it wouldn't conflict with interesting speakers. SAGRAY expressed concern about having to clean up on Sunday night; ELLIOTT concurred. VENOLA also expressed concern about people being asked to leave on Sunday night who have a long way to drive. As to starting later, SAGRAY would rather not have to try to get all registrations processed in a rush on Saturday morning. Consensus reached on no changes.

B. Procedures for publication of reports

SAGRAY noted that certain items are to be submitted directly to the Editor, but what if something is just incorrect, like the recent income/expense statement? WALKER suggested that the recent occurrence was just an aberration. ELLIOTT expressed concern on timeliness if having to send all reports for vetting before publication. SAGRAY clarified that she is not contemplating this, but rather at least have some mechanism for stopping publication of something when a problem happens to be known. VENOLA suggested having an understanding with the Editor, with the possibility of including a disclaimer statement as applicable. The current Bylaws require the Treasurer to submit a semi-annual financial report to the Board, but don't specifically provide for approval before publication. Moved (SAGRAY/BURNETT) to re-empower a special Bylaws Committee (1) to review all current regulatory documents and make recommendations to the Board for any changes, (2) specifically to consider the problem of publication of faulty reporting in mandated reports, and (3) to update the ASIE's and Standing Rules from January 2008. Motion approved 8-0. SAGRAY appointed Audrey Wilson as Committee Chair at this time, without objection from Board. Committee members to include BURNETT, ELLIOTT, LINDENBLATT, and SAGRAY *ex officio*.

- C. Discussion of Insurance for the storage unit
Discussion of various options. Noted that any coverage which we purchase for storage would not cover any damage sustained while equipment is in use outside the facility. Moved (SAGRAY/SMITH) to continue to insure GLAAM property in the storage facility at current rate of \$8 per month; motion failed 3-4-1. SAGRAY will notify Brian Madsen to cancel the existing insurance.

V. New Business

- A. Discussion of replacement Officer Handbooks
SAGRAY recommends proceeding with replacing the missing books. ELLIOTT recommended holding off until the end of the fiscal year, and then add any necessary expense to next year's budget; SAGRAY countered that we need access to the books sooner than that, especially for the new special committee that will be reviewing/updating all the documents, but may be okay to allow ELLIOTT one further month to hunt down missing books.

- B&C. Replacement of broken items from ELAC party damage, & Purchase of 6 folding chairs and a plastic table
SAGRAY addressed question on lamps, since might be more due to wear-and-tear, although a lot of that wear-and-tear happens during the gaming parties; however, WONG does have a good claim for broken chairs and stained rug in the dining room. ELLIOTT is also not sure about the lamps, but generally feels that WONG's event is one of the more popular and important events in GLAAM, and that it certainly is worthy of additional Board support as applicable. Moved (VENOLA/WALKER) that we replace the two broken chairs, and clean the rug, and buy 6 folding chairs and a large folding table for Mensa, with total cost not to exceed \$800. Motion approved 9-0.

VI. Closing

- A. Good of the Order
Further discussion of what we now need to do with filing of tax return. SAGRAY recommended that we engage a new accountant, and that we assemble all statements and receipts from SMITH and ELLIOTT within the next week, to allow the accountant time to review the records in preparation for return filing by 12/15. WONG's cousin may not be available. WALKER knows of someone who might be suitable; will put her in touch with SAGRAY.

- B. Adjournment
Motion (ELLIOTT/VENOLA) to adjourn carried 8-0 at 1:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Elliott
Acting Secretary