

GLAAM Board of Directors

Official Minutes

November 7, 2020

Conducted Electronically via Zoom

	Secretary	Delegate	Members-at-Large
Mid-City	[X] Vesper Burnett	[X] Jordan Albert	[O] Greg Williamson
Coastal	[X] Alma Munro	[X] Madeline Walker	[X] Andrea Nolan
SFV	[X] Jana Bickel	vacant	[O] Gene Schneider
ELAC	vacant	vacant	[X] Sandra Smith
Hi-Desert	[X] Craig Lancaster	[O] Bruce Smith	[O] Courtney Seiter
Inland Empire	[/] Wilbert Woo	vacant	

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

Guests: Jonathan Elliott, Brian Madsen, Toni Hansen, Vickey Kalambakal, David Fenig

I. Opening

- A. Call to Order – 11:01 am.
- B. Approval of Agenda – (Munro / Albert) approved 8/0/0
- C. Approval of Previous Minutes – as amended (Munro/ Lancaster) – approved 9/0/0

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

- i. Chairman (Munro) - Local secretaries to have a joint meeting, possibly over Zoom. Looking into allowing other users to use the GLAAM account.
- ii. Exec Vice Chair (Open) - open position, as S. Smith has resigned.
- iii. Vice Chair (G. Schneider) - not present
- iv. Sec (Burnett / Albert) – we will both be unavailable for next month’s meeting. Otherwise no report.
- v. Treasurer (B Smith) – not present

B. Area Reports

- i. Mid City (Burnett/Albert) – No report
- ii. Coastal (Walker/Munro) - No report
- iii. ELAC (Open) - No report
- iv. Hi-Desert (Lancaster/ B. Smith) - Schneider to be noted as absent with leave
- v. Inland Empire (Woo) - monthly zoom meeting with about a dozen members.
- vi. SFV (Bickel) – Zoom party with 7 attendees. Will take off Nov and Dec. due to the holidays. Will resume Jan. Attended the OC Halloween zoom party, which was fun.

C. Members-at-Large

- i. Nolan - thanks to Jonathan for his work on the bylaws!! Spoken to Madeline about two gifted children.
- ii. Schneider - not present
- iii. S. Smith - we have an amazon connection, would recommend advertising this in the newsletter. (Madsen) – Owns this account and does not think its worth keeping. It has not made money in years. (Munro) – We should move this to connect.
- iv. Williamson - not present
- v. Seiter - not present

D. Committees and Coordinators

- i. Awards (J Elliott) - no report

ii. By-laws (J Elliott) - - We had occasion to make a ruling this past month, citing Motion #2012-074 as prohibiting the sound-recording of any Board meeting, except temporarily by the Secretary to help with Minutes preparation, or at other times only if unanimously approved by all Board members present. Our postings provided a few of the several reasons why this important policy is in place.

- As announced on the CC's list, we have received approval from the National Bylaws Committee to ballot our proposed Bylaws reconstruction to the Membership for ratification. We therefore assembled a redline version of our proposed Bylaws, a 3-page Voter Guide to describe the 40 proposed changes most succinctly, and a 1/2-page ballot form, which as always will need to appear in three consecutive issues of the newsletter. Elections Committee made some adjustments to our formatting and pagination which we would not have recommended, but we are deferring to their judgment, in that we did ask them to conduct a rare midterm election for us.

- In a possibly-unrelated development, we observed that the 5-paragraph Committee report which we submitted on Oct 11 via the CC's list as an introduction to the Bylaws election did not make it into the November issue, so we apologize for what must have been a miscommunication on our part, in underemphasizing the necessity of including that article, for without it the various references in the Voter Guide to the Minimum Standard Bylaws and the National Bylaws Committee don't have a whole lot of context, because they were phrased on the assumption that the introductory report would be in the issue somewhere. Perhaps we can find space to run the report in the December issue, preferably with a note to explain that it was intended for publication in November.

- We have ruled that all ballots for this Bylaws election should be submitted on paper within signed envelopes, and not by e-mail or any other electronic medium. However, the Bylaws may possibly allow us some flexibility on that point, so the full Board can override us if you really want, but we are recommending that paper is better than e-mail for purposes of security and accuracy.

- We have updated the Motions Catalogs for the Nov2019 Board meeting, but we cannot progress further because Dec2019 still does not appear on the website. We also observed that the Minutes of Aug, Sep, & Oct of 2019 were not listed, even though to our knowledge those Minutes were duly approved.

iii. Elections (Fenig / Friedlander) - (Fenig) - 4 ballots have been received. One had to be thrown out. None have been received for the board. (Lancaster) – Will still try to collect paper signatures and mail to Fenig. (Madsen) – Will ask National for zipcode changes.

iv Ombudsman (Friedlander) - not present

v. Gifted Youth (Walker) - Volunteers for Gifted Youth must go through a background check every three years. Members whose time is up can probably postpone check until we can get back to normal. (Munro) - currently background checks are free.

vi. Regional Gathering (Walker) - working on speakers. Basic schedule is coming together.

vii. Scholarships (Takenaka) - not present (Kalambakal) – we should reach out to Takenaka.

viii. Social Media Coordinators (Albert) – reach out to Albert if you want anything posted to social media.

ix. Special Events (Walker) - Contacted Hollywood Bowl about our donation, will follow up to get a letter of recognition. Pantages theatre has upcoming Hamilton dates, but will wait till outlook seems more solid.

x. Strategic Planning (Munro) - no report

xi. Testing (D. Elliott) – on hold

xii. Circulation (Madsen) - Sent zip code listing to S. Smith and Fenig. Newsletter went out on time, all is well.

xiii. Data (Madsen) - Reports are up to date. Membership is updated.

xiv. LA-mentary (Kalambakal) - Welcomes all contributions. Please send feedback about content. Apology was posted for upsetting article in last month's issue from the author.

xv. Open Forum (Albert) - still working on two speakers and will updated board as needed.

xvi. SIGHT (Chew) - no report

xvii. SIGs (Madsen) – no report

xviii. Webmaster (Open) – Need to reach out for a new webmaster.

- xix. Mensaphone (Schneider) - not present
- xx. PR (Williamson) - no report
- xxi. Membership (Williamson) - no report

III. Special Orders

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

A. Petition Procedures in Pandemic - (Bylaws Committee) is uncertain how much latitude we should be allowing in our standard petition procedures in consideration of the pandemic. - (J. Elliott) – cited bylaws which is vague about the media of the petition. There is a difference between petitions and ballots. Petitions are a matter of public record. So offhand, there doesn't seem to be a problem with electronic communications. (Fenig) – As long as all necessary info is received, physical petitions are the same as electronic. (Munro) – If we can, we should communicate this info to members via social media and newsletter. (J. Elliott) – A motion to interpret this should take place, but may not be necessary. (Munro)- Fenig, please inform us exactly what info is needed so that we can be explicit with members in communication. (Fenig) – Wording to be something like - "For electronic petitions, a person needs to send an email to election chair and petitioner with their Mensa number, position petitioner is running for, person's address, and their name. BOD is interpreting Bylaws 16A2 regarding election practice to allow electronic petitions as specified by the election committee." Motion (J. Elliott on behalf of the Bylaws Committee) – approved 8/0/1.

Additional info from J. Elliott - Petition Procedures in Pandemic (Bylaws Committee) - Election Chair raised question on CC's list about how much latitude we should be allowing in our standard petition procedures in consideration of the pandemic. Bylaws Committee expressed that they were uncertain about it, and asked that the discussion be elevated to the full Board. ByCom posted shortly thereafter that they did not see an immediate problem with signatures being submitted electronically, because ballots are supposed to be anonymous, whereas petition signatures are a matter of open record. ByCom Chair read Paragraph XVI-A-2 into the record, as follows: "A notice shall be placed in the December issue of the official GLAAM publication, informing the membership of the procedure whereby members may be included in the original slate of candidates for election. All petitions for office shall be acknowledged by the Election Committee within ten (10) days after receipt. Voters and those signing petitions for office must be members in good standing of GLAAM and their respective Areas, where applicable." ByCom Chair asserted that this language does not appear to specify how the petitions may/must be signed, and suggested that we interpret it to allow electronic signatures at least for the pandemic period, and possibly on an ongoing basis, to be considered another time. Motion to this effect may not have been strictly necessary, but to be on safe side, since we were recommending a change from previous standard practice, Bylaws Committee offered the following: "For at least the present election cycle, the GLAAM Board of Directors is interpreting Paragraph XVI-A-2 of the Bylaws to allow petition signatures to be submitted electronically, according to any procedures specified by the Elections Committee." Agreed in discussion that one minimum requirement is that the signer must provide her own Mensa membership number, as with a paper petition. Motion carried without objection.

VI. Closing

- A. Good of the Order – (Walker) – New Yorkers are having a great time this morning! (Lancaster) – Dodgers won the world series!
- B. Adjournment – (Munro / Albert) approved 9/0/0 at 12:55

GLAAM Board of Directors
Mini-Minutes
Board Meeting – November 7, 2020

Meeting called to order at 11:02 am over Zoom, with Board members Burnett, Munro, Bickel, Lancaster, Woo, Albert, Walker, B Smith, and Nolan present, in addition to guests Jonathan Elliott, Vickey Kalambakal, Brian Madsen, David Fenig, and Toni Hansen. Executive officers, area secretaries, coordinators and committee chairs gave updates. The board discussed petition procedures during the pandemic and approved to allow electronic petitions. Meeting adjourned at 12:55pm.