

Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom
March 5th, 2022

Area	Secretary	Delegate	Members-at-Large
Mid-City	vacant	vacant	[✓] Brian Madsen
Coastal	vacant	vacant	[✓] Andrea Nolan
SFV	[✓] Jana Bickel	[✓] Alan Stillson	[✓] Courtney Seiter
ELAC	vacant	[✓] Jonathan Elliott	[✓] Madeline Walker
Hi-Desert	vacant	[✓] Lindsay Ross	[✓] Gregory Williamson
Inland Empire	[✓] Wilbert Woo	vacant	vacant

Key:

[✓] = present for entire meeting

[/] = present for portion

[X:#] = absent, with count (#) of consecutive absences

Guests: Mark Carpenter, Toni Hansen, Charles Lindenblatt

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

- Meeting was opened by Chair Seiter at 11:01am.

B. Approval of Agenda

- Madsen moved to approve; Seiter seconded; agenda was approved (9/0/1).

C. Approval of Previous Minutes

1. **January 29th, 2022:** Elliott moved to approve; Stillson seconded; minutes were approved (9/0/1).
2. **February 5th, 2022:** Bickel moved to approve; Stillson seconded; minutes were approved (9/0/1).

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

1. Chair (Seiter)

- made the tough decision not to continue as a member of the Board after the end of the current Board term in May.
- stated her intention to work hard between now and then to do a very aggressive campaign to bring in volunteers.

2. Executive Vice-Chair (vacant)

- Williamson resigned as Executive Vice Chair, effective prior to this meeting, vacating that position.
- Williamson had no report as outgoing XVC.

3. Administrative Vice-Chair (vacant)

4. Secretary (Madsen)

- had collected old Board minutes going back to 2007, but with many gaps.
 - had a complete set of minutes from the times when Lee Stillman and Vesper and Jordan were Secretary, all of whom had done a fabulous job of being complete; otherwise, the history of minutes was very hit-or-miss.
 - Walker suggested that old records were in the storage unit, and offered to let Madsen look through them there.
- was looking for the GLAAM Corporate Seal.
 - Elliott responded that he has the Seal, which he provided on camera, and agreed to pass it to Madsen when they next meet in person.
- requested minutes from the Annual Business Meeting.
 - Seiter responded that no ABM was held in February, so no minutes were taken.
- asked how best to send agendas to meeting attendees who are not Board members.
- noted that we have no Board meeting dates after June and suggested adding that discussion as new business on the April agenda.

5. Treasurer (Woo)

- Woo collected mail from the post office box.
 - Mail included an item from Costa Rica.
 - Walker and Stillson expected that this was an *L.A. Mentary* that was sent to Costa Rica and which was returned from there due to being sent to an incorrect address.
 - Mail included an item from AON.
 - Elliott expected this was a bill for our Directors and Officers insurance, which would need to be paid.
- Seiter asked if Woo was able to coordinate with Craig Lancaster to get access to the GLAAM bank account, as planned at the previous Board meeting.
 - Woo said he was not able to do so.
 - Bickel reported that Lancaster suffered a stroke this past week, that Frey found him on the floor of his apartment on Thursday, got him from there to the hospital, and that Frey was with him at the hospital at the time of the meeting, where he was recovering. Bickel reported that "he'll probably be out of commission for a little while."
- Seiter stated that she wanted these minutes to reflect who should be signers on

the GLAAM bank accounts; discussion would continue during Unfinished Business.

- Elliott had received notice that GLAAM had lost its tax-exempt status as the result of having failed to file required tax returns during the past three years.
- Elliott recommended, due to Gene Schneider's passing, closing the credit union account which she maintained on behalf of the Hi-Desert Area, and that Bruce Smith was a cosigner on that account and so might be able to help get that account closed and funds transferred to GLAAM.
 - Seiter asked Woo to reach out to Smith to coordinate closing that account. Woo agreed.

B. Area Reports

1. Mid-City (vacant)

2. Coastal (vacant)

3. SFV

- Bickel stated that she would prefer not to continue as SFV Secretary after May, but that she would do so if no one else comes forward.
- Sizzler and Contemporary Issues SIG discussions were held.
- Bickel had access to the GLAAM website and made changes to correct outdated information, notably on Contacts, SFV, and SIGs pages.
- Stillson concurred that things were happening in SFV, especially that "Folksong SIG has been working out very well" and that he and Jana were communicating their events on social media pages, especially Mensa Connect.
- Stillson hoped that in April and May, they would be able to organize more fun things to do in SFV.

4. ELAC

- Elliott received a request from one new member asking about upcoming events; Elliott recommended (among other things) our upcoming picnic in Griffith Park; Walker later noted that that member told her that he planned to attend.

5. Hi-Desert

- Ross protested "the transcription not being taken of this meeting by not speaking any substantial matters here. That's all."

6. Inland Empire

- Woo: Zoom meetings have continued on second Saturdays, averaging five to eight attendees, and he anticipated in-person meetings, "maybe a luncheon," in the near future since COVID restrictions were expected to lift.

C. Members-at-Large

1. Madsen: No report

2. Nolan said that Bickel's meetings were "pleasant and successful" and thanked both Bickel and Stillson for picking her up to attend them as she was recovering from an injury.

3. Seiter: No report

4. Walker: No report
5. Williamson had been considering planning events in Mid-City since those area representative positions were currently vacant, and was also interested in taking one of those positions in the future. However, for the time being, he planned to remain as Member-at-Large, but would like to plan events for Mid-City "unofficially" since those were not currently happening.

D. Committees and Coordinators

1. Awards (Elliott)

- "For the first time since we began to issue the award, nobody at all qualifies for Rookie of the Year." In other words, "all of our current volunteers have volunteered before and we are not getting anybody new involved in helping to manage our programs and activities. So in our observation, the chapter needs somehow to do better in this area."
- Elliott spoke with one longtime member at the recent Acapulco luncheon who expressed interest in volunteering; Seiter asked Elliott to put her in contact with this potential volunteer.
- Guest Toni Hansen noted that she couldn't find a list of responsibilities for our various volunteer positions.
 - Elliott responded that we had documented volunteer responsibilities which should be on our website; Hansen said that she couldn't find it.
 - Madsen said that it was on the website, but agreed that it was hard to find; Madsen agreed to send Hansen that list.
 - Bickel agreed that it was there, but hard to find, and suggested that we might want to reconsider the design of the website, including especially how much contact information we wanted to make visible to the public.
 - Elliott expressed interest in either forming, leading, or being part of a website redesign committee, and that he was "eager for that stuff to be easily located and actively utilized."
 - Seiter noted that she was "currently actively looking for a new webmaster" and "that is something that I'm hoping to have in place in the next two weeks, and then we can form a committee to make any changes or adjustments as need be."

2. Elections (Fenig/Friedlander)

- Seiter noted that only four people completed petitions for Board seats, and asked that if any Board members "are not intending to continue with the Board after May, would you please reach out to me and let me know, so that I can include that in my [volunteer recruitment] efforts before then."

3. Gifted Youth (Walker)

- 40 of 500 gifted youth had turned 18 and were adult members at the current time.
- Walker was drafting an email to the remaining 460 families, including a list of upcoming activities and a request for assistants.

4. Membership (Seiter)

- Seiter reported that she was “going to start a very aggressive campaign for volunteers in the next week.”

5. Regional Gathering (Walker)

- Non-RG RG at Acapulco Restaurant had 33 “terrific” attendees, including Bickel and Woo. Total cost was \$1,673.18, of which \$953 was paid by attendees, and \$720.18 would need to be covered by GLAAM. Speakers at this luncheon were “amazing”.

6. Special Events (Walker)

- Picnic in Griffith Park was planned for Saturday, May 14th.

7. Scholarship (vacant)

- Seiter was looking for a Scholarship volunteer. Our former Scholarship Chair said she cannot help at this time. Seiter was working with Region 9 Scholarship Chair Jennifer Morris to find someone, and “we may have to call someone in from a different area.”
- Walker noted that she typically includes information about GLAAM scholarships in the emails she typically sends to parents of Gifted Youth.

8. Archivist (vacant)

- Seiter noted that Schneider's passing meant that we had no archivist. Seiter noted that we need to reach out to Schneider's family to transfer any GLAAM records that she had in her possession. Seiter said that she intended to work on this.

9. Calendar (Stilson)

- “The calendar is moving along fine. I appreciate all people who lead activities and send them to me.”

10. Circulation (Stillson)

- Stillson expressed concern about our financial situation and noted that we had been late to pay our printer, although Lancaster had since paid them from personal funds. With Lancaster unavailable, Stillson emphasized that “we need to take care of this potential problem.”

11. Data (Madsen)

- Madsen had data available, although so far, no one had asked to see it.

12. Historian (Ross)

- Ross “continue[d] to protest” by offering nothing substantive. He said that this was not the same as offering no report, as “even to say no report would be substantive,” but after more discussion, he changed this to “no report.”
- Elliott suggested that Ross might present his reports in writing “so that he would not need to do any substantive speaking.” Ross agreed.

13. MensaPhone (vacant): was planned for discussion later during the meeting as part of Unfinished Business.
14. Open Forum (Albert/Ross): No report
15. Public Relations (Ross): No report
16. SIGHT (Chew)

I've been in fairly extensive contact with the Korean member who recently moved to Irvine, and finally sent out the Mensa Connect to all GLAAM members so they could contact her if desired, but haven't heard back from her about whether anyone has done so.

The national SIGHT Coordinator notified us that Adam Gruzlewski, the SIGHT coordinator of Mensa Poland is willing to coordinate assistance to Ukrainian members. (Members of Mensa living in Ukraine would either be members of another country or Mensa International.) Adam can be reached by email at sight@mensa.org.pl, or, if you are on Facebook, you can send him a private message there.

Also, a Washington state member sent out the email address of a person, Jason Cammaro, who formerly worked for the Peace Corps in Ukraine, is back in the US, and is in contact with a group called the Return Peace Corps Volunteers Alliance of Ukraine. He reports:

We have a group feed going where people are shout out need help with so-and-so going to what town or country.
bogboy3@gmail.com

The national SIGHT coordinator also reminded us that any member, not just SIGHT coordinators, can join the SIGHT coordinator Facebook group, which might be a better way to get more up-to-date information on this: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/176942022394979>. Anyone wishing to join should be prepared with their membership number.

17. SIGs (Bickel)
 - Bickel updated our webpage with information about our SIGs.
18. Social Media (Seiter)
 - Seiter asked that people who post to social media coordinate their postings with her to ensure that they are uniform, consistent, and formatted properly.
19. Webmaster (Gililand)
 - Seiter said that she had spoken with Gililand who "has indicated that he is no

longer doing anything with the website.”

- Seiter noted that “we are actively looking for a webmaster as well.”
- Elliott noted that Gililand had been helpful recently, as Bickel had also noted, including uploading replacement reports for the Answers to Everything SIG.

III. Special Orders

A. Filling of Vacant Board Positions

- A number of openings existed.
- Stillson nominated Walker for Administrative Vice Chair, but she declined the nomination.
- No vacancies were filled at this time.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Treasurer Woo needed access to the GLAAM bank account

- Seiter noted that “we need to discuss who exactly is going to be on those accounts.”
- Elliott noted that our bylaws require at least three signatories on bank accounts: the treasurer and at least two others.
- Madsen volunteered to be one of the three people.
- Madsen nominated Williamson, who agreed to be another.
- Walker noted that we also had a second account for the RG, that she as RG Chair was a signer on that account and wanted to continue to be one, also that she had a debit card for that account, and that Bickel as RG Treasurer also wanted to be on that account.
- Seiter moved that “as far as the bank accounts for Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa go, for the general account, the signers on that account will be the Chair, the Executive Vice Chair, the Secretary, and the Treasurer as long as those positions are filled. Currently, those positions are filled by **Brian Madsen** as Secretary, **Wilbert Woo** as Treasurer, and **Gregory Williamson** will be added as a third signer on that account to meet our bylaws.” Bickel seconded. All approved. No abstentions. No objections. Motion was adopted.
- Seiter further moved that “for the RG account, the Chair, Co-chair, and Treasurer of the RG will be included as signatories on the RG bank account as well as the GLAAM treasurer. Currently those people are **Madeline Walker** as Chair, **Jana Bickel** as RG Treasurer and **Wilbert Woo** as general Treasurer.” Walker seconded. All approve. No abstentions. No objections. Motion was adopted.
- In both of the foregoing motions, it should be understood that the signers should be those individuals and officers named, and no others. In other words, any previous signers on these accounts not named in these motions should be removed at the same time that new names are added.
- Seiter asked the five named individuals to confer after the main meeting to coordinate a time and place to meet with Chase Bank to make these changes. That discussion happened off the record, directly after this meeting.

B. List of volunteers in *L.A. Mentary* (Elliott)

- Elliott and Frey had coordinated the list of volunteers as listed in *L.A. Mentary*. Elliott was essentially in agreement, despite “little quibbles”. He said, “I don't believe anything further needs to happen on this.”

C. Plan for MensaPhone going forward (Albert)

- As Lancaster wrote, we needed to decide “the future of the MensaPhone following the death of Gene Schneider.”
- Prior to the meeting, Madsen asked Albert if he would take over that responsibility. Albert responded in writing that he didn't expect to have “the time & energy to remain coordinator for the rest of the year, but I would be willing to take it on for a period of time to set it up and help the board figure out the best ways to use it. But, it may be the case that we don't really need a coordinator to take full responsibility for the phone. It might be best for Courtney to keep possession of the phone once it's set up, as Chair and Social Media Coordinator, for example.”
- Elliott moved “to retire the position of MensaPhone coordinator, and to repose custody of any physical GLAAM telephone or other mobile device to the social media coordinator.” Seiter seconded. All approved, with no objections or abstentions. Motion was adopted.

D. Webmaster responsibilities (Albert)

- Seiter reiterated that finding a new webmaster would be part of her “aggressive volunteering campaign”.
- Some discussion ensued regarding paying a professional webmaster to update and/or maintain our website. There was general agreement that we didn't want to do this except as a “very last resort.”

V. New Business

A. GLAAM mailbox (Lancaster)

- Lancaster had paid for the mailbox for three months and needed to be reimbursed.
- Woo had paid for the mailbox for the full year from personal funds and also needed to be reimbursed.
- Elliott asked if Jay Friedlander had a key to the mailbox. Seiter said she would reach out to him to see if that was the case.

B. Paying for *L.A. Mentary* (Lancaster)

- Seiter noted that once Woo was added to the GLAAM bank account, that should be enough to resolve concerns about this.
- Seiter also noted that Stillson had paid some of his own money to maintain things, and also needed to be reimbursed.
- Stillson wanted to see a treasurer's report, once Woo has gained access to the bank account, including payables and receivables as well as a cash balance.
 - Elliott noted that our bylaws require this twice a year, and that when he was treasurer, he generated this monthly. Stillson agreed that that was “good discipline to maintain.” Woo agreed that it would take time to get caught up, but once that happened, “going on a monthly basis is not going to be that much trouble.”

VI. Closing

A. Good of the Order

1. Elliott asked what would be involved in maintaining the GLAAM website, and that "maybe that's something that I could make time for."
 - Bickel noted that our website used WordPress, which was easy enough to use when modifying single pages, but she didn't feel comfortable tackling a redesign.
 - Bickel noted that she had trouble getting logged in to the GLAAM website's members-only section.
 - Bickel also wanted us to consider our social media presence: "What do we want for the website, versus what is our Facebook page supposed to be? And what are we using Mensa Connect for? They're all ways that we communicate with our members. I'm not really sure if we need all three."
 - Madsen noted that WordPress was a different paradigm from the old HTML/CSS world that we used to use when designing websites, and changes made in recent years by past webmasters meant that it was all very different from how it had been previously.
 - Elliott agreed to take time before the May meeting to evaluate and see if webmastering would be something he would want to take on.

B. Adjournment

- Elliott moved, Walker seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Brian Madsen, GLAAM Secretary*