

Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom
May 7th, 2022

Area	Secretary	Delegate	Members-at-Large
Mid-City	vacant	vacant	[✓] Brian Madsen
Coastal	vacant	vacant	[✓] Andrea Nolan
SFV	[X:1] 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: Roy Ball, Mark Carpenter, Joshua Dresser, David Fenig, Jay Friedlander, Ignacio Gonzalez, David Ilan, Charles Lindenblatt

During this meeting's Special Orders:

- Board members Bickel, Ross, and Seiter concluded their terms of service to the Board.
- Board members Elliott, Madsen, Nolan, Stillson, Walker, Williamson, and Woo continued their service to the Board for another term.
- Guests Ball, Carpenter, and Gonzalez were elected to the Board.
 - Ball was elected Member-at-Large.
 - Carpenter was elected Inland Empire Delegate.
 - Gonzalez was elected ELAC Secretary.

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

- Meeting was opened by Courtney Seiter at 10:30am.

B. Approval of Previous Minutes

1. **October 2nd, 2021:** Seiter moved to approve, Walker seconded, Elliott and Williamson abstained, all others approved; minutes were approved (7/0/2).
2. **December 4th, 2021:** Stillson moved to approve, Walker seconded, Elliott abstained, all others approved; minutes were approved (8/0/1).

3. April 2nd, 2022: Elliott noted with approval the visual presentation of the minutes, which he called a "very nice look". He also noted two items of incorrect information, which Madsen accepted and agreed to change. With those revisions, Madsen moved to approve, Seiter seconded and also abstained; minutes were approved (8/0/1).

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

1. Chair (Seiter)

- Seiter noted the removal of Nikki Frey as newsletter editor.
- Seiter said she would be happy to sit down with whoever is the new LocSec and with RVC Rachel Kibler to discuss what's been happening and what should happen going forward.
- Seiter's plan to move out of the area has accelerated to the end of May.

2. Executive Vice-Chair (vacant)

3. Administrative Vice-Chair (vacant)

4. Secretary (Madsen)

- Madsen has transcribed all of the recordings that he had from 2021. There was no recording for November. He had provided minutes from recordings from October onward, but there were no more recordings, so the minutes that he had provided from past meetings are all that he could provide.
- Seiter suggested contacting Jordan Albert, in case he has additional minutes. Madsen responded that he had spoken with Albert, who had provided a full set of minutes from the time when he and Vesper Burnett were serving as Board Secretary, and also a full set of minutes from past Secretaries Lee Stillman and Danielle Hanne. Despite this there were gaps in Madsen's record of past minutes, chiefly from periods in between those past Secretaries.
- Seiter encouraged Ross to offer anything he has to fill in the gaps from 2021: "That would be really terrific." Ross did not respond.

5. Treasurer (Woo)

- Woo completed the yearly financial statement and sent it to national by the deadline.
- "At the end of the month, we have \$5,315.51 in RG account and \$28,111.01 in the GLAAM account for a total of \$33,426.52 in those two accounts."
- Woo acknowledged that there were some payments that need to be made, particularly to NPE, our newsletter printer, which he expected to pay soon.
- Woo confirmed that he plans to dissolve the Hi-Desert account that Gene Schneider had been maintaining.
- Elliott noted, following up from a discussion from the previous month, that Woo had asked Michael Wong to return an old GLAAM check to Woo so it could be reissued, but Elliott did not have Woo's mailing address.
- Walker noted that Woo had paid for our storage unit. Walker also asked anyone who had keys to the storage unit to let her know.

B. Area Reports

1. Mid-City (vacant)

2. Coastal (vacant)

3. SFV

- Stillson reported an outing to the Valley Relics Museum followed by lunch at Maria's Italian Kitchen. "Seven of us went to that. It was a lot of fun."
- Stillson: "I'll be planning some Valley area outings probably every other month, so I have one in mind for June."

4. ELAC

- Elliott participated in a CultureQuest team this year, comprising members from the east side, but he was disappointed that the format had changed to be less challenging.
- Madsen provided Elliott with GLAAM member data showing the geographic locations of all of our members, with which Elliott determined that our population center has moved, since our last collection of this information in 2012, "out of ELAC and into the Inland Empire, specifically in Rancho Cucamonga."

5. Hi-Desert: no report

6. Inland Empire

- Woo: Zoom meetings have continued, attracting "anywhere from five to seven people every time."

C. Members-at-Large

1. Madsen

- attended the SFV Sizzler dinner this month for the first time in a couple of years.

2. Nolan

- In May's *L.A. Mentary*, on page 19, phone numbers for Seiter and Walker are misplaced.
- Nolan is grateful to Stillson and Bickel for kindly picking her up to take her to SFV's discussion meetings.

3. Walker: no report

4. Williamson

- Held a happy hour at The Black Cat with Jordan Albert.
- Reported plans for an upcoming event at batting cages in Burbank.
- Reported another potential future happy hour planned at "a Star Wars-themed bar called Scum and Villainy."
- "I also did a little newsletter this last month in record time."
 - Seiter: "Thank you so much for your efforts on getting the newsletter out. That was really amazing, and the end product was was really spectacular."

D. Committees and Coordinators

1. Awards Committee

- Elliott announced:
 - Alan Stillson is our Member of the Year.
 - Jana Bickel has advanced to the silver level of the Hall of Fame.

2. Elections Committee

- Fenig's Elections report was printed in the May *L.A. Mentary*.

3. Gifted Youth Committee

- Walker sent a note to over 20 new Gifted Youth members with information about what we're doing.

4. Regional Gathering Committee

- Walker reported that there were no concrete plans for an upcoming RG. "When we get closer to [February], we will see how the world is doing." In the meantime, she met a potential speaker "assuming we do get an RG going."

5. Special Events Committee

- Picnic in Griffith Park Saturday, May 14th from 11:00-3:00, including wrapped sandwiches, and including a hike led by Sue Barr starting before the picnic at 10:30.

6. Calendar Editor

- Stillson: "Everybody who has been running events has been really cooperative, sending me things in a timely manner. It's running very smoothly."

7. Circulation Manager

- Stillson agreed with Woo's earlier statement about getting the printer paid right away. "They've really been very good working with us and very understanding of some of the things that have been going on, and we'd love to keep up that business relationship."

8. Data Officer

- Madsen provided Elliott with latitude/longitude data for all of our members to be used in determining the geographical center of our group.
- Madsen also provided a list of populations of each of GLAAM's areas, to be used later in this meeting to appoint new Board members to fill vacancies.

9. Historian

- Ross "would want us to have a transcription of our meetings for history."

10. Open Forum

- Madsen summarized Albert's written report: "He said that he had started to put together a list of possible speakers. He's got four of them on his list. He encourages the rest of us to add to that list." Also that "he's willing to continue, either by himself or with others, to coordinate Open Forum in the future."

11. SIGHT

- Madsen summarized Chew's written report, saying that she is willing to continue as SIGHT Coordinator for another year, and that her phone number appears incorrectly in *L.A. Mentary*.

12. Webmaster

- Elliott has updated the awards section of the GLAAM website.
- Elliott is willing to accept appointment as webmaster "on the condition that Jana is available and willing to help with calendar entries and possibly some other adjustments, for which I would be willing to split my award points in some proportion to be determined."
- Elliott and Bickel noticed a misbehavior on the website's calendar in which event times were defaulting to UTC unless timezones were explicitly set, but then noticed that the problem was no longer occurring, perhaps due to an automatic software update.

13. Archivist, Diversity Committee, Finance Committee, *L.A. Mentary*, Membership Committee, Ombudsman, Public Relations, Scholarships Committee, SIGs, Social Media, Testing Committee, and Young Ms all offered no report.

III. Special Orders

A. Call to Order (Election Chair Presiding)

- Seiter turned leadership of the meeting over to Elections Chair David Fenig at 11:10am.

B. Installation of New Board

- Fenig thanked the previous Board.
- Fenig announced that the new Board consists of SFV Delegate Alan Stillson and Members-at-Large Brian Madsen, Gregory Williamson, and Andrea Nolan, whose terms on the Board continue for the next two years.
- Fenig announced that all other Board positions were open and that any appointments to those positions would end at the Board meeting a year later in May, 2023.

C. Election of Chair and Other Executive Officers

- Fenig asked for nominations for LocSec from among the four members of the Board.
 - Stillson nominated Williamson. Williamson accepted.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Fenig declared Williamson GLAAM's new LocSec.
- Fenig asked for nominations for Executive Vice Chair.
 - Williamson nominated Elliott, who could not accept, being not yet on the Board.
 - Stillson nominated Madsen, who declined with thanks, expressing his desire to be Administrative Vice Chair and Secretary, and also to see Elliott as Executive Vice Chair.
 - Fenig announced no candidates for Executive Vice Chair, which remained open.
- Fenig asked for nominations for Administrative Vice Chair.

- Williamson nominated Madsen, who accepted.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Fenig declared Madsen Administrative Vice Chair.
- Fenig asked for nominations for Board Secretary.
 - Madsen nominated himself.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Fenig declared Madsen Board Secretary.
- Fenig asked for nominations for Board Treasurer.
 - No nominations were offered.
 - Fenig announced that the position of Treasurer remained open.
- Fenig turned leadership of the meeting to LocSec Williamson at 11:16am.

D. Filling Vacancies on the Board

- Williamson asked for nominations for Hi-Desert Secretary.
 - No nominations were offered. That position remained open.
- Williamson asked for nominations for Inland Empire Secretary.
 - Madsen nominated Woo, who accepted.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Williamson declared Woo Inland Empire Secretary.
- Williamson asked for nominations for ELAC Secretary.
 - Elliott suggested Ignacio Gonzalez.
 - Madsen asked Gonzalez if he was interested.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the role and responsibilities of an Area Secretary.
 - Gonzalez stated a willingness to take on that role, and introduced himself to the group.
 - Madsen nominated Gonzalez, who accepted.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Williamson declared Gonzalez ELAC Secretary.
- Williamson asked for nominations for Mid-City Secretary.
 - No nominations were offered. That position remained open.
- Williamson asked for nominations for SFV Secretary.
 - Walker attempted to nominate Nikki Frey, but Walker is not a sitting Board member, so the nomination did not proceed.
 - Stillson nominated Bonnie Burrow.
 - Elliott pointed out that in order to be nominated, she must be present or have stated in writing a willingness to accept the nomination, neither of which was the case, and so her nomination did not proceed.
 - No other nominations were offered. That position remained open.

- Williamson asked for nominations for Coastal Secretary.
 - Stillson attempted to nominate Roy Ball, but Ball is in Mid-City, and stated a preference for being Member-at-Large rather than an area representative.
 - No other nominations were offered. That position remained open.
- Williamson asked for nominations for Hi-Desert Delegate.
 - Ross attempted to nominate himself, but he is not a sitting Board member, so that nomination did not proceed.
 - No other nominations were offered. That position remained open.
- Williamson asked for nominations for Inland Empire Delegate.
 - Woo nominated Mark Carpenter, who accepted.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Williamson declared Carpenter Inland Empire Delegate.
- Williamson asked for nominations for ELAC Delegate.
 - Madsen nominated Elliott, who accepted.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Williamson declared Elliott ELAC Delegate.
- Williamson asked for nominations for Mid-City Delegate.
 - Stillson nominated Ball.
 - Ball declined, expressing a preference for Member-at-Large.
 - No other nominations were offered. That position remained open.
- Williamson asked for nominations for Coastal Delegate.
 - No nominations were offered. That position remained open.
- Williamson asked for nominations for Member-at-Large.
 - Elliott nominated Walker, who accepted.
 - Stillson nominated Ball, who accepted.
 - Ball attempted to nominate Nikki Frey, but he is not a sitting Board member, so that nomination did not proceed.
 - Nolan attempted to nominate Nikki Frey, but because Frey is not directly connected to our Zoom meeting and because we don't have a written statement unambiguously from her, Williamson declared that we cannot accept that nomination.
 - Stillson advised Frey to try again at the next Board meeting. Williamson concurred with that advice.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Williamson declared Walker and Ball Members-at-Large, with one Member-at-Large seat remaining vacant.

E. Appointment of Committee Chairs and Coordinators

- Williamson nominated the following Committee Chairs:

- i. Awards Committee Chair: Jonathan Elliott
- ii. Gifted Youth Committee Chair: Madeline Walker
- iii. Regional Gathering Committee Chair: Madeline Walker
- iv. Special Events Committee Chair: Madeline Walker
- v. Diversity Committee Chair: Gregory Williamson
- vi. Testing Committee Chair: No appointment
- vii. Finance Committee Chair: No appointment at this time, but Williamson was aware of three interested candidates.
- viii. Scholarship Committee Chair: No appointment
- Williamson nominated the following Coordinators:
 - i. Archivist: Brian Madsen (at Madsen's suggestion)
 - ii. Data Officer: Brian Madsen
 - iii. Circulation Manager: Alan Stillson
 - iv. Historian: Jonathan Elliott (at Elliott's suggestion)
 - v. Open Forum Coordinator: Jordan Albert
 - vi. Public Relations Coordinator: Gregory Williamson
 - vii. SIGHT Coordinator: Arlette Chew
 - viii. SIGs Coordinator: Jana Bickel
 - ix. Social Media Coordinator: No appointment at this time, but Williamson was aware of interested candidates.
 - x. Webmaster: Jonathan Elliott
 - xi. *L.A. Mentary* Editor: Joshua Dresser
- Williamson introduced Dresser and invited him to introduce himself, which he did.
 - Dresser's wealth of past experience is remarkable, including contributions to *The Onion* ("when it was good"), and *The Economist*, and has been writing, editing and publishing for many years.
- Williamson asked for discussion and/or objections. None were offered.
- In the absence of any objection, the appointments stand.
- Elliott nominated David Fenig as Elections Committee Chair and Jay Friedlander as Elections Committee Deputy, and Madsen seconded.
 - Both of them accepted the nominations.
 - Williamson asked for discussion and/or objections. None were offered.
 - Williamson declared Fenig and Friedlander elected to the Elections Committee.

F. Election of Other Executive Officers, Revisited

- Discussion ensued regarding whether it was in order to fill executive officer vacancies at this time.
 - Elliott noted that this was not clear-cut, and that various interpretations of the rules were possible, including that these positions should remain vacant until they have been advertised as vacancies.

- Friedlander noted that traditionally, we have filled these positions at this time.
 - Elections proceeded at this time based on general agreement with Friedlander on this point.
- Williamson nominated Elliott as Executive Vice Chair.
 - Madsen seconded.
 - Elliott accepted the nomination.
 - Williamson asked for other nominations and/or objections. None were offered.
 - Williamson declared Elliott Executive Vice Chair.
- Madsen nominated Woo as Board Treasurer.
 - Stillson seconded.
 - Woo accepted the nomination.
 - Williamson asked for other nominations and/or objections. None were offered.
 - Williamson declared Woo Board Treasurer.

G. Approval of Remaining Agenda

- Agenda was approved by acclamation.

H. Any Additional Reports

- Elliott noted that guest David Ilan had joined the meeting and had expressed interest in helping out on the newsletter. Discussion ensued. Williamson stated that he would discuss with Dresser and Ilan and others to determine what help was needed and who could best provide that help.

IV. Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

A. Newsletter oversight / advisory committee (Friedlander)

- Friedlander noted, citing the Editorial Guidelines available at <https://www.glaam.org/about/business-administrative/>, that "In the March issue, a list of all candidates for election needed to be published, and it was not. In the April issue, a Notice of General Meeting needed to be published, and it was not. The absence of these actually jeopardized this meeting, and might have prevented us from filling the seats we filled today. To make sure this doesn't happen again, I think the board should appoint some willing volunteer to make sure that the required items are included in the newsletter before it goes to print so we don't get into trouble."
- Williamson responded to points raised by Friedlander, and offered to be that volunteer:
 - "I want for the record to thank Nikki for the work that she did for our newsletter, in spite of how things turned out. She did spend a lot of time and energy creating a newsletter, and trying to engage the membership, and that is a lot of work. I know."
 - "One of the main reasons that I took on doing the May newsletter was to put out the required notice for this elections meeting so that this is all on solid

foundation.”

- “The way I would like to handle this, at least for now, is I'm going to work with Joshua. I need to help him understand what the requirements are. And in order to do that, I have to learn what the requirements are. So I need to get an understanding of what are all the things that we need to be publishing in the newsletter,” including election notices, financial statements, etc., “and then I can work with the editor to make sure that information is in there, and once I get a model of how that exchange can look, then I can look at finding somebody else to take that on. But I want to make sure that it's done right – I want to start this the right way – and so I'd like to handle that myself.”
 - Friedlander noted that the Editorial Guidelines that he cited earlier contain a lot of the information Williamson is looking for. Williamson agreed to look at those guidelines.
- A number of Board members agreed that oversight should be advisory, and should not equate to censorship or a heavy hand:
 - Friedlander: “I don't think this person that I'm suggesting as a liaison to make sure required material gets in should have any sort of censorship over the editor. The editor has to make the final decision. However, I don't think it would have hurt for a person that's reviewing it to have the ability to go back to the editor and say, ‘You know, I think this could be problematic,’ so that the editor can consider it.”
 - Gonzalez: “As far as month-to-month having any kind of hovering oversight over somebody, I don't think that's necessary. This might be resolved by just simply putting together a checklist that he should review before it goes out rather than having us over your shoulder.”
 - Williamson: “I think it's very important that the newsletter editor feel a certain sense of autonomy in the work that they do, because I think that we get better work from the editor, and from all of our positions. I think it's important that everybody feel a sense of support and have the resources that they need to do the work that they are charged with. My intention [is] to walk that line of giving Joshua the space that he needs, the autonomy that he needs to feel ownership over that newsletter and produce great work, which I think he's very capable of, but I also want to make sure that the chapter's needs are met.”

VI. Closing

A. Good of the Order

1. Elliott expected to be absent at the June meeting, but reminded that we need to discuss the budget at that meeting.
 - Madsen agreed to put that item on the agenda.
 - Williamson and Woo discussed their intention to work together before the June meeting to prepare a preliminary budget for discussion.
2. Walker has “fabulous Dodgers seats available if anybody wants them, on field level behind home plate.”
3. Elliott thanked Williamson for stepping forward to assume leadership of GLAAM. “It's

been a tricky time last few months for a variety of reasons. You've demonstrated recently, including with the May newsletter, that you've been willing to step forward and solve our problems and make things get done. And I want to make sure that as you were thanking all the other volunteers for stepping forward and doing various things, we want to thank you, too. So thank you."

- Stillson concurred, thanking Williamson "for all the things you've done, including finding an editor and possibly an assistant to the editor for _L.A. Mentary. I just want to let you know that I'll be behind you in everything that you try."

4. Walker asked, citing Frey, what we intended regarding in-person Board meetings.

- Williamson: "I've been thinking about that. And I've been thinking about what we gain from these online Zoom meetings, as well as the benefits of a traditional sit-down, in-person meeting. And I'd like to find something that sort of works in the middle of all that. I don't know what that answer is yet, but that is certainly something we're going to talk about, as a group, so that we can figure out how we want to continue. At this time, I think we should continue with these online meetings using Zoom, because this is what's familiar, this is what we know. We've got a lot of things to rebuild, we've got a lot of work to do, and I don't want to pull out things that are currently working before we get some forward-moving momentum. So for now, I'd like to continue with this format, until we can find something that works better for us."

5. Williamson: "I want to thank Courtney for the work that she did, because she stepped in at a critical time for us, and she did some of the heavy lifting that was required to get us back on track, and that was no small feat, and so I really want to thank her for that. And then I want to thank all of you who have stuck around while a lot of other volunteers left during the dark times. You guys stuck around, and that really says something about you, and I really appreciate all of you for staying with it, for staying with us and keeping us afloat. Thank you. And thank you for trusting me with this position and this opportunity."

B. Adjournment

- Williamson moved, Stillson seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:44pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Brian Madsen, GLAAM Secretary*