

Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom
June 4th, 2022

Area	Secretary	Delegate	Members-at-Large
Mid-City	vacant	vacant	[/] Roy Ball
Coastal	vacant	vacant	[✓] Brian Madsen
SFV	vacant	[✓] Alan Stillson	[✓] Andrea Nolan
ELAC	[✓] Ignacio González	[X:1] Jonathan Elliott	[✓] Madeline Walker
Hi-Desert	vacant	vacant	[✓] Gregory Williamson
Inland Empire	[✓] Wilbert Woo	[✓] Mark Carpenter	vacant

Key:

[✓] = present for entire meeting

[/] = present for portion

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

Guests: Pejman Azarmina, Vicki Bartmess, Jordan Byrne, Isaac Depeyer, Joshua Dresser, Bill McBride, Seiuli Fa'auliulito H. Meni

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

- Meeting was opened by Gregory Williamson at 11:04am.

B. Approval of Agenda

- Williamson proposed three items of new business (Mail and mailbox, debit card, and GLAAM phone)
- Stillson moved to approve; Walker seconded; agenda was approved without objection.

C. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Madsen moved to approve the May meeting's minutes; González seconded; minutes were approved without objection.

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

1. Chair (Williamson)

- "I wrote my first monthly LocSec column"
- "I have been reviewing all the information resources that I can find," including Mensa websites locally and nationally, and including conversations with previous GLAAM LocSecs (Courtney Seiter, Alma Munro, Desiree Elliott) and previous and

current GLAAM Treasurers (Craig Lancaster, Bruce Smith, Wilbert Woo).

- "I've been sending out weekly emails to the entire membership," including calls for volunteers and a list of upcoming calendar events.
- Reported a number of good responses from GLAAM members to his calls for volunteers, resulting in personal outreach to determine what each person wants to do. Several people attended this meeting as a result of that outreach.
- Reported planned one-on-one meetings with current volunteers, including Board members.
- "I've also been working on the budget, trying to pull together what I can from previous budgets. I still have questions," to be discussed under Special Orders later in this meeting.

2. Executive Vice-Chair (Elliott)

- Written report: "I was the highest-ranking officer present at the recent picnic. Couple of attendees suggested that it should be possible to fill Board vacancies at the June meeting, but I pointed out Standing Rule 20 and our reasons for having it, and the explanation appeared to satisfy."

3. Administrative Vice-Chair (Madsen)

- "I have taken over ownership of our Zoom account," which is "why the invitation link changed from the one we've been using."
- "I've done what I can to get all of our Board members signed up for our Mensa Connect lists, and both Roy and Mark are not members of the BOD list, although they are members of the CC's list."

4. Secretary (Madsen)

- Had uploaded to our website at GLAAM.org final agendas and minutes for everything that we've approved in the past few months, since about October.
- "I have older minutes going back to 2007 which are not on the website. We should probably talk about that, but I'm not proposing we have that conversation at this meeting."
- "I as Secretary am responsible for our Board member handbooks. In the coming weeks, I'm going to try to find who has old handbooks, and where the source material is for those. I'm going to try to get those together and make sure current board members have handbooks."
 - Walker reported that Sandra Smith has handbook materials, and Walker can transfer those from Smith to Madsen. Madsen and Walker arranged to discuss further outside of this meeting.
 - Jordan reported that he and Vesper also have their handbooks, and can transfer those to Madsen as well.

5. Treasurer (Woo)

- Paid bills for the newsletter and storage
- "As of yesterday, we have in the RG account \$5,256.51, and in the regular GLAAM account \$27,620.29, for a total pf \$32,876.80."

B. Area Reports

1. Mid-City (vacant)

2. Coastal (vacant)

3. SFV

- Stillson: "Two things coming up in June: Nikki [Frey] put together an event at Bob's Big Boy, and I put one together later in June, taking a tour of the Gene Autry Museum and Griffith Park and going from there to lunch at a barbecue place."

4. ELAC

- González has been considering a number of possible events, including "pizza this Thursday," the Columbia Memorial Space Center in Downey, and TransparentSea Shrimp Farm, also in Downey. ("Two doors down from the Space Center, there's a shrimp manufacturing facility where they grow shrimp. They have gourmet shrimp in the middle of Downey!")
- "I'm looking forward to our Diversity Committee meeting later today."

5. Hi-Desert (vacant)

6. Inland Empire

- Woo: Zoom meetings continue on the second Saturday of the month, which are attended by five to seven people. "We normally schedule a luncheon, but not this month. We'll try for that again next month."

C. Members-at-Large

1. Madsen

- Attended the SFV Sizzler dinner this month.
- Paid GoDaddy for another year of our GLAAM.org domain name, and asked to be reimbursed.
- Discussed with Woo (prior to this meeting) that there's a bill from Bluehost for web hosting software that we use on our website, which needs to be paid every three years and is due now.

2. Nolan

- Thanked Alan Stillson and Jana Bickel for picking her up to go to meetings, since she can't drive very far. Also expressed regret for missing the picnic in Griffith Park for the same reason.

3. Walker

- Storage unit needs to be paid an extra \$9.
- Has been considering a lunch for people interested in volunteering for an RG in February.
- "I went to the San Diego RG. It was a blast."
- Encouraged attendance at the upcoming Annual Gathering in Sparks, Nevada.

4. Williamson

- Hosted an event at Batcade batting cages, attended by Williamson and Elliott.

- Hosted an event at a Star Wars-themed bar called Scum & Villainy.
- Planned another event June 22nd at El Cid Restaurant.

5. Ball

- Asked when our next meeting occurs. Madsen responded that that will be July 16th.
- Asked if we are planning a Hollywood Bowl event.

D. Committees and Coordinators

1. Awards Committee

- Elliott wrote that he "submitted annual Awards report for June newsletter."

2. Diversity Committee

- Williamson as chair reported that the committee comprises three members: himself, González, and "a guy by the name of Perry."
- First committee meeting was planned for later that afternoon.

3. Gifted Youth Committee

- Walker expressed "tremendous excitement" that Williamson's call for volunteers resulted in people interested in leading Gifted Youth. Walker and Williamson agreed to discuss more about this later, outside of this meeting.

4. Membership Committee

- Williamson reported that the lapsed member program is happening now, and he wanted to work with Jana Bickel (the other member of the committee) in connection with that program to contact lapsed members and encourage them to renew.

5. Regional Gathering Committee

- Walker noted that she and others (Bickel, Nolan) are scouting locations for an RG in February, which is difficult (as always) due to our need to bring in our own food, among other things. She also noted that the people we've worked with in the past at the DoubleTree in San Pedro are no longer there, but she expected a call in the near future from the new management there. Other locations are also under consideration, including a Hilton in the San Fernando Valley off of the 405 freeway.
- González offered to discuss RG location requirements with Walker when they meet "this Thursday".
- Nolan offered to do on-site check-in of registered attendees at the RG.

6. Scholarships Committee

- Williamson reported that he has had discussions with a possible new volunteer who has an interest in filling this position. He intended to report further after having additional conversations with this potential volunteer.

7. Special Events Committee

- Plans to see *Hamilton* at the Pantages have been impacted by the pandemic.
- Walker had sent out feelers asking about interest in the Hollywood Bowl, and got very little response.

8. Testing Committee

- Williamson reported that he has been working to resuscitate testing efforts, and has reached out to our only current proctors, Mary Carney and Dave Felt.

9. Archivist

- Madsen reported that he needs to get the list of past ASIEs that Gene Schneider had been maintaining, and Madsen has not followed up on this, primarily because he has been focused on Secretary tasks such as minutes and handbooks. He hoped to have more to report at the next Board meeting.

10. Calendar Editor

- Stillson thanked "people who are taking the time and the trouble to plan out things that go into the calendar." The calendar operation is going well. Stillson asked that event descriptions stick as much as possible to facts about the event, avoiding commentary and asides. He also noted that announcements in the calendar of events, particularly in connection with forming a new (or reinvigorating an old) SIG are "a golden opportunity to create things where you can get the most out of your Mensa experience."

11. Circulation Manager

- Stillson noted that our printing company is continuing to work well with us, even though "we've put [them] through some very interesting changes."
- Stillson encouraged people to opt for electronic newsletter distribution.
 - Madsen reminded that individuals can specify this by logging in to the national Mensa website, finding their profile settings, and adjusting their printed material communication preferences. By doing so, they can choose how they want the *Mensa Bulletin* and/or *L.A. Mentary* delivered.

12. Data Officer

- Madsen reminded everyone, and particularly new Board members, that he can provide member data such as lists of people who have moved in or moved out of a GLAAM Area, and that Area Representatives can use that information to welcome new members or contact departing ones.

13. Historian

- Elliott wrote, "Our new Webmaster has informed me that the page summarizing our chapter history has not been updated since at least 2008, because it still refers to Dave Felt as our current International Ombudsman, so we have some work ahead of us."

14. *L.A. Mentary*

- Dresser reported "a good first run."

- He also requested that submitted images should be high-resolution, but “not enormous files.”
- Advertising from Bill McBride was not included in the June issue because Dresser did not have that information in time. He has it now.

15. Open Forum

- Byrne expressed interest in making Open Forum open to the public, and also advertising speaker events to other local groups.
- Byrne asked about budgeting amounts for speaker honorariums. “Allocating a few hundred dollars here and there to pay an honorarium to certain speakers, is that something the Board is amenable to?”

16. Public Relations

- Williamson noted that he had material from the national office regarding the role of Public Relations, which involves publicizing our local activities, including testing. Williamson has begun to grow a network of places to publicize such things. “Once we get testing going, then we’ll have test sessions that we can send out.”

17. SIGHT

- Chew wrote, “Our other SIGHT volunteer, David Ilan, hosted his first visitor, Oliver from UK, May 18 to 21. They visited a number of popular sites together, and Oliver also toured downtown on his own. Overall, the visit was a great success!”

18. Social Media

- Williamson reported that he had “somebody who has expressed interest and I am talking with them about it. So perhaps we will soon have a social media person.”

19. Webmaster

- Elliott wrote:

- Performed complete tour of front end of site, cataloguing all pages in the current architecture, and noting which ones need updating before we try to reorganize them. Observed several redundancies and inaccuracies, including that the link to the national bylaws points instead to the local document, and that the link to the local bylaws shows the 2007 version.
- Updated the ‘Join Mensa’ page to show that Desiree is no longer Testing Coordinator.
- Whereas the ‘Join Mensa’ page previously stated that local tests are administered by the Testing Coordinator, I have replaced ‘administered’ with ‘arranged’, since it is the proctors who administer tests.
- Updated the Contacts page with new GLAAM officers. All officers

(both new and continuing) are encouraged to check the Contacts page, and let me know if any contact information should be added or changed or deleted.

- I have also updated the Contacts page to read 'Chair' instead of 'Chairman', pursuant to our recent bylaws revision.
- I have removed Bylaws from the list of committees on the Contacts page, and I have added the Diversity Committee.
- Social Media has been moved from the Committee section to the Coordinator section of the Contacts page.
- I have rephrased 'Mensa Testing' as 'Testing' on the Contacts page, rearranged it alphabetically for easier spotting, and dropped the line for MensaPhone.
- Position of Archivist was missing from the Coordinator listing, so I added it.
- Position of Circulation Manager was listed in a separate section for L.A. Mentary staff, but I moved it to the Coordinator section, since it reports to the Board and not to the Editor.
- Trevor informed me how to manage users for the website, and I have added Brian so that he can help with posting documents while I focus on other necessities. While there, I also deleted profiles for Alma and a Jennie Newman (name is not ringing a bell) and two Mildreds. We left Billie and Gregory and Trevor and Jana and Jordan.

20. Elections Committee, Finance Committee, Ombudsman, SIGs, and Young Ms all offered no report.

III. Special Orders

A. Filling Vacancies on the Board

- Board vacancies need to be advertised 30 days in advance of being filled. That time has not yet elapsed, and so Board vacancies will be filled starting with our July meeting.

B. Appointment of Committee Chairs and Coordinators

- No nominees were presented.

C. Budget

- Williamson presented the beginnings of a budget, which he wanted us to discuss between now and our July meeting, with the goal of approving a budget at the July meeting.
- Discussion of Amazon Affiliates as a source of income, which we have discontinued.
- Discussion of expenses for awards, such as Hall of Fame owl statues and the like.
- Discussion of expenses for Griffith Park picnic.
- Discussion of income and expenses for the RG, particularly the fact that the RG has its

own budget and reports its own financial status, so there's not typically a lot of detail about RG income or expenses in GLAAM's annual budget. We just need to account for overall profit or loss from the RG, which is typically an overage that needs to be covered.

- Discussion of expenses for CultureQuest, and whether we will subsidize a team.
- Discussion of D&O insurance: what it is, why we pay for it, and how much.
 - Walker reminded that the national office covers the RG with a million-dollar liability insurance policy. We aren't charged for this, but we need to report to the national office that we're holding an event in order to be covered by that insurance.
- Discussion of expenses for Special Events
 - Dodger Stadium events require attendees to pay their own way, so GLAAM does not incur costs. Same for Pantages Theater events.
 - There should be budgeted expenses for Hollywood Bowl, Volunteer appreciation luncheons, and picnics in Griffith Park.
- Byrne asked again for a budget for expenses for Open Forum. Williamson and Byrne agreed to discuss anticipated costs outside of this meeting.
- Discussion of funds to support our GLAAM.org website.
- Discussion of funds for our six Areas (Coastal, Hi-Desert, etc.): what are such funds used for, and how much money should be allocated for such things?
- Discussion of funds for Gifted Youth. Walker doesn't have a specific forecast, but has used funds for some Gifted Youth activities in the past, and may need that again.
- Williamson asked again for emails from everyone about items they would like to see in the budget when it is finally approved.

IV. Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business

A. Mail and mailbox

- We have a post office box in Pasadena, but no one is formally tasked with checking for mail from there. Elliott and Woo both have keys, and both have checked for mail from time to time. Nobody has a formal assignment to check the mailbox regularly.
- No decisions were made, but Williamson asked to continue this discussion as part of Unfinished Business at our next meeting, to set expectations about how the mailbox will be checked. Williamson also wants to discuss "meeting formats and meeting expectations."

B. GLAAM phone

- Williamson asked about the current status of a mobile phone for GLAAM's use.
- Byrne reported that we don't have a phone at this time. We made some effort to get an account and a physical phone, but we never followed through to completion.
- Ball reminded the group that we used to have a voice messaging account with a company called United Voice Service, which he reported cost \$10-15 per month.

C. Debit card

- Williamson asked Woo if we have a debit card for our bank accounts.
- Woo confirmed that we do not.
- Williamson asked Woo if he would please request one. Woo agreed.
- Walker reported that she has a debit card for the RG account, but not for the main GLAAM account.

VI. Closing

A. Good of the Order

1. Elliott wrote: "I announced our marriage during Good of the Order, now it's time to announce our divorce. Desiree and her father and Michael Wong have closed escrow on a house in Canyon Country, and expect to be moved out of the Sierra Madre house by the end of June, after which I will be functionally single, although the state requires a certain waiting period before dissolution becomes official."
2. Ball: "I have a handwritten and signed statement from Nikki Frey that she's interested in and willing to accept the nomination for Valley Area Secretary."
3. Madsen reminded that our next meeting is on the third Saturday in July, the 16th.

B. Adjournment

- Stillson moved, Carpenter seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Brian Madsen, GLAAM Secretary*