

Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa
Annual Business Meeting **Draft (Unapproved)** Minutes
Meeting held during the GLAAM Regional Gathering
at Golden Sails Hotel, Long Beach, CA
February 19th, 2023

Present for all or part of the meeting:

- Jonathan Elliott, GLAAM Chair
- Brian Madsen, GLAAM AVC and Secretary
- Wilbert Woo, GLAAM Treasurer
- Ray Han
- Toni Hansen
- Bill Harvey (San Francisco Regional Mensa)
- Douglas Marriott
- Bill Shaddle (Orange County Mensa)
- June Woodruff

All are members of GLAAM except where noted.

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order by Chair Jonathan Elliott at 9:05am.

B. Approval of Agenda

- Elliott presented an agenda orally: Elliott would report the state of our chapter; then Woo would present a financial statement; and finally an open discussion among those present.

C. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Madsen gave his understanding that GLAAM had not held an Annual Business meeting in the last two years, and he didn't have draft minutes to approve from earlier than that, and so no minutes were offered for approval.

II. Reports

A. LocSec Elliott

- "Thank you on the record to the fabulous RG Committee." Elliott noted that the hotel has been treating us well, and that the RG Committee put together an RG "on very short notice and they've done an outstanding job. Several folks are responsible. The biggest shout outs are for Jay Friedlander and Madeline Walker and Orange County's Valerie Spear. We've had a lot of other people helping but it's been a great committee effort."
- "The chapter has had some challenges recently, but generally appears, in my observation, to be dealing with them successfully and emerging into a better place."

Elliott referred in particular to the recent COVID pandemic.

- “We still have our monthly Board meetings on Zoom, but at some point, we might like to resume conducting at least some of them in a physical location again, possibly near our new population center, which we recently measured to be in Rancho Cucamonga.”
- “We do not yet have the same number of calendar activities as we did before the pandemic, and most of those which we do have, are still attended only lightly.”
- “We are also starting to do some other nice things in our chapter, including to redesign our website, not only to provide more historical content in a more organized manner, but also to redesign our homepage to be both more descriptive of our society and more useful for site navigation.”
- Regarding GLAAM volunteers, Elliott noted:
 - “New volunteer To [Meni] has been very active in her roles as Coastal Area Representative and Gifted Youth Coordinator and Diversity Committee Chair and has a very strong chance of walking away with this term's Rookie of the Year award.”
 - Other volunteers have been contributing recently, including meeting attendees Marriott and Hansen.
 - “Our society has had some specific challenges recently in terms of volunteer turnover. A couple were dismissed midterm by the Board in their wisdom for various reasons. A couple were dismissed by the Regional Vice Chair in her wisdom for different reasons. A few resigned midterm, reportedly because their outside pressures prevented them from serving adequately their entire terms. And a small number resigned midterm in protest of various things. [GLAAM's] biggest responsibilities are being met by a combination of veteran volunteers and some happy new faces. So again, we seem to be making our way out of those woods. ”
- Regarding finances, Elliott noted that Woo would speak in more detail, but added:
 - “We recently managed to complete the reconstruction of our ledgers and financial statements for the last four years, which had lapsed because my successor as chapter treasurer had a great heart, but just wasn't entirely suitable for that role, and as time passed, it became harder for his successors to get us all caught up. But now it's happened, thanks to Wilbert and other members of the Finance Committee, and we are in the process of getting our corporate statuses restored with the federal IRS and the California Secretary of State.”
 - “Analysis of our recent cash flows has shown us that we are currently operating in a deficit budget, largely because our previous newsletter printer went out of business, and their replacement has been charging a much higher rate, necessitating the Board's recent decision to reduce our newsletter size from 32 pages to 16, under which reduction we are still losing money, but not as much.”

B. Treasurer Woo

- Woo summarized our financial situation for the period from May to January. Income from member dues was “about \$13,880”. Printing cost and postage were “about \$10,000.” Everything else was “relatively minor, except for the RG.” At the time of this meeting, the

RG had “collected about \$11,000 in payments,” but at the time, it was still too early to know what the final RG expenses would be because the RG finances hadn't yet settled. Without that, we didn't know the net income or loss due to the RG. As of January 31st, with registration income from the RG but not a full accounting of the expense of the RG, the financial statement shows a net increase for the year of roughly \$8,600.

- Attendee Marriott followed up on the report that we have reconciled our finances for the past four years and asked for a summary of that accounting. Woo reported that in 2019, we lost about \$7,800, in 2020, we gained \$5,450, in 2021, we gained \$332, and in 2022, we lost \$145.
- Marriott also asked if we expected to break even on the RG. Woo noted that a lot of that depended on how many attendees showed up, that the RG Committee had anticipated 80 people, and that “we were pleased to get the number of people that did show up.” Still, because the RG books weren't balanced yet, it was difficult to predict whether we would break even. Attendee Woodruff reported that RG Chair Walker “was hoping for 85 people,” but based on registration table data, the RG had “at least 120”. Elliott said that that was “highly encouraging.”

III. Discussion from the floor

Elliott opened the floor for comments and questions.

A. Hosting a MindGames event

- Marriott asked if GLAAM had considered hosting a MindGames event.
- Elliott responded that it was something that has been considered, “going back 20-25 years,” but that it would be difficult due to GLAAM's financial situation, and its lack of volunteers. As stated, we didn't know the financial outcome of the current RG, and if that should turn out well, maybe we could consider hosting MindGames, but perhaps not in the same year as an RG . That is to say, it's conceivable to skip an RG one year and hold MindGames instead. “So that's a long way of saying maybe[...], but it's a fun activity, and if we could manage to do that here and not have to travel across the country to do it, that'd be great.”

B. GLAAM's population center

- Marriott referred back to Elliott's earlier remark that our population center was determined to be in Rancho Cucamonga, and asked how we knew that.
- Elliott explained that he had calculated our population center in 2002 and again in 2012 and had determined that it was in Burbank and then in Glendale, but that we had since incorporated the Inland Empire, which, when we did the calculation again in 2022, resulted in a population center farther east.
- Elliott also thanked Madsen for obtaining accurate latitude and longitude data for all of our members in 2022, which he said made it much easier to do the calculation than in previous years.

C. Board meetings in person

- The discussion about Rancho Cucamonga led some attendees (Woodruff, Madsen) to indicate that if we're going to meet there, that's a bit far away. And yet, it has been expressed elsewhere that holding Board meetings over Zoom has been a bit impersonal, and keeps us from getting to know each other socially the way we used to do when we

met for Board meetings in person.

- Madsen suggested a compromise, an idea that he had been kicking around in his head without mentioning previously: what if we continued to hold the Board meetings over Zoom indefinitely, thereby making it easier for far-flung Board members to attend without driving long distances, but then, afterward, what if we scheduled a lunch or a dinner without requiring anybody to attend, but that way some of us could meet socially after the Board meeting as a way of maintaining personal contact.
- Madsen and Elliott both agreed that (in Madsen's words) "hanging out with people over lunch after the Board meeting is something that I miss very much, and it seems like we could have the best of both worlds and do both of those things, and anybody who doesn't want to drive three hours to go to lunch, it'd be totally understandable if they don't want to do that. But the rest of us could, you know, go to Pasadena and have lunch."
- Woo suggested, rather than always meeting in Pasadena for lunch, moving the location each month so that some months it's in one geographic area and other months it's in another. This would allow everyone to participate for some of these meals even if they didn't feel like driving to attend all of them. This way, at least some of the in-person outings would be close to everyone at some time or another. Elliott said that that sounded like a good idea too.
- Bill Shaddle explained that in Orange County, Board meetings were historically held monthly at someone's home, followed by an open house. More recently, Board meetings were currently held quarterly over Zoom, independent of an open house, which they wanted to do monthly. "The monthly open house usually is the first Saturday of each month."

IV. Adjournment

- Madsen moved, someone else seconded, and Elliott declared the meeting adjourned at 9:47am.

*Respectfully submitted,
Brian Madsen, GLAAM Secretary*