

Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom
May 6th, 2023

Area	Secretary	Delegate	Members-at-Large
Mid-City	vacant	vacant	[✓] Roy Ball
Coastal	[/] To Meni	vacant	[✓] Brian Madsen
SFV	vacant	[✓] Alan Stillson	[✓] Sam Moses
ELAC	vacant	[✓] Jonathan Elliott	[✓] Andrea Nolan
Hi-Desert	vacant	vacant	[✓] Madeline Walker
Inland Empire	[✓] Wilbert Woo	[✓] Mark Carpenter	vacant

Key:

[✓] = present for entire meeting

[/] = present for portion

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

Members-Elect: Perry Lanaro, Craig Lancaster

Guests: Jordan Albert Byrne, Jana Bickel, Allan Boone, Kato Cooks, David Fenig, Nikki Frey, Jay Friedlander, Gloria Greengard, Douglas Marriott, Nikki Smith, June Woodruff

During this meeting's Special Orders:

- Board members Elliott and Walker concluded their terms of service to the Board.
- Board members-elect Lanaro and Lancaster began their service to the Board. Lanaro had been elected to a one-year term. Lancaster had been elected to a two-year term.
- Board members Ball, Carpenter, Madsen, Meni, Moses, Nolan, Stillson, and Woo continued their service to the Board for at least another Board term.
 - Ball and Moses had been elected to two-year terms.
 - Madsen, Nolan, and Stillson continued the second of their two-year terms.
 - Carpenter, Meni, and Woo were reappointed for a single year.
- Guests Boone, Cooks, Marriott, and Smith were appointed to the Board.
 - Boone was appointed SFV Secretary.
 - Marriott was appointed ELAC Secretary.
 - Cooks was appointed ELAC Delegate.
 - Smith was appointed Coastal Delegate.

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order by Chair Jonathan Elliott at 10:30am.

B. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Elliott moved to approve, Moses seconded, and the minutes were approved without objection.

II. Reports

A. Executive Officers

1. Chair (Elliott)

- GLAAM volunteers have been receiving emails purporting to be from Elliott, but these are fraudulent and should be ignored. All recipients have been other volunteers with emails listed on the GLAAM website. Future Board members and/or webmasters may wish to reconsider displaying emails there.
- Attended a Zoom meeting for LocSecs around the country hosted by national Vice Chair Angie Christie.
 - "I took the opportunity to brag about our RG."
 - "Other LocSecs bemoaned the widespread problem of successorship, so it's not just us."
 - "They brought up the topic of paper newsletters and the consensus was that each chapter had about 50% preferring paper, so also it's not just us."
 - "A couple of attendees independently pointed us to an outfit in Sarasota Florida which already is managing 13 local groups around the country. The new Board and the Finance Committee may want to check out CTI printing at <http://ctiprinting.com/> to see whether they can save us substantially over our current vendor."
- "In the preceding five months I served as GLAAM chair, I reported an average of 5.8 items in each Board meeting, giving an indication of the amount of work that I did as Chair between Board meetings in addition to my various other roles."
- "Now that I am retiring as an executive officer, after today, I'm going back to checking my personal email account only once per week, on Thursday afternoons. Anyone who needs my attention more urgently than that should send me a text message."

2. Executive Vice-Chair (Moses): no report

3. Administrative Vice-Chair (Madsen)

- "We have a GoDaddy account that is in my name that will auto-renew on May 10th, and I will need to be reimbursed."
- "Chase [Bank] sent me a letter informing me that they're making minor changes to our account, including changing the date that the statement closes each month, to the last day of the month. I assume that Wilbert got that too."

4. Secretary (Madsen)

- "I have updated the website with all the latest minutes and agendas, and I've gone back through my archives of old minutes going back to 2007 and I've added all those to the website too, so we now have a bunch of older minutes that we didn't have there before."

5. Treasurer (Woo)

- Reported our financial condition to the national office. That report is attached to these minutes as [us.mensa Glaam 2022-23 annual report.pdf](#)
- Woo shared a spreadsheet showing income and expenses for the period May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023, attached to these minutes as [FY 2022-23 I&E.xlsx](#).
- Woo commended the RG committee and all of the RG volunteers: "I never realized how much work all the volunteers did to get a successful RG going and I really appreciate them." Elliott "happily seconded."

B. Area Reports

1. Mid-City: no report

2. Coastal

- Meni had previously communicated that she would be joining the meeting late, and so was not present to give a report at this time.

3. SFV

- Stillson planned a trip to the Leonis Adobe Museum in Calabasas in May, which was listed in the calendar.

4. ELAC

- Elliott: "There seems to be a general reluctance of long standing to start new activities in the Area, largely because there is one particular member who lives in the vicinity, and for a couple of reasons, people are afraid that he will show up."

5. Hi-Desert: no report

6. Inland Empire

- Woo: Joan Francis, who used to host the Zoom meeting for IE, has decided not to do that, and Woo expressed interest in starting that up again in her place.
- Both Woo and Carpenter expressed interest in starting up in-person meetings, and noted that the COVID pandemic is no longer considered a federal public health emergency.

C. Members-at-Large

1. Ball

- "We had our CultureQuest[®] meeting last Sunday." Winners will be announced at the Annual Gathering. "We're anxiously waiting to see how well we did."

2. Madsen

- Visited our mailbox, found a receipt from Post Pack & Ship confirming Woo's recent additional payment for the cost of our mailbox rental. He had recently paid for three months. This payment was for an additional year. Our mailbox is now paid through mid-2024.

3. Moses

- Planned a Fourth of July party "probably the first Saturday."
- Intended to start a monthly dinner group in June, staggered to occur "two weeks apart from Perry [Lanaro]'s dinner in Santa Monica."

4. Nolan

- "I was fixing a couple of issues with a couple of the members here, and it's to do with the RG."
- "Jana is so kind to come and pick me up for a couple of her meetings. As usual, they're really good, and they're very well attended. People seem to enjoy those meetings and discussions."

5. Walker: no report

D. Committees

1. Awards Committee

- Elliott reported:
 - Jana Bickel is our Member of the Year for 2022-2023.
 - To Meni is our Rookie of the Year.
 - Alan Stillson advanced to the platinum level of our Hall of Fame.

2. Elections Committee

- Fenig reported a good turnout at the ballot counting. "Perry won for the one-year Member-at-Large, and Roy, Sam and Craig won for the two-year Member-at-Large [positions]."

3. Finance Committee

- Moses: "The long-awaited tax returns" should be ready for review "this week sometime, but I don't know who to send drafts to."
 - Elliott volunteered to take a look. Moses agreed to forward drafts to him.

4. Gifted Youth Committee

- Walker reported that Meni had planned a train trip to visit a mission, but plans fell through, "and it's too bad because she had 30 people who were going to go."
- Walker was invited to speak at the upcoming San Diego RG about Gifted Youth. Walker explained that both Orange County and San Diego "haven't really done anything for [Gifted Youth] for years," and so this was an opportunity to share her expertise with neighboring local groups.

5. Regional Gathering Committee

- Walker reported that contract negotiations with the Golden Sails Hotel are still underway, slowed down by a family emergency on the part of the representative from the hotel.
- See below, where Friedlander also reported on the RG later in the meeting.

6. Special Events Committee

- Walker: at the upcoming picnic, the plan was no longer to buy premade sandwiches from Subway, but rather to provide breads, meats, cheeses, etc. to allow attendees to make their own sandwiches, as we had done before the pandemic.
- Walker: "We're getting close to having a couple things at the Hollywood Bowl. When I'm done with that, I'll probably work on one day for the Dodgers."

7. Testing Committee

- Marriott: "We're really close to locking in some long term contracts with a few sites that'll let us test there for free." He also anticipated possible testing in Bishop and in Mammoth Lakes. Also, "we've been having an issue with attendance" where eight or ten people have signed up but only two or three people actually showed.
- Moses offered his office in Santa Monica as a possible testing location.

E. Coordinators

1. Archivist

- Madsen: "I'm very aware that I have owed you an update to the motions catalog for a year, and I have done nothing with that. I'm hoping to find time to do that very soon. I know it's something I promised I would do. I will get that done."

2. Calendar Editor

- Stillson intended to notify calendar event hosts "that it is up to them if they want to include or exclude any COVID safety language" in their event descriptions.

3. Circulation Manager

- Stillson: our latest printed newsletter count was 756, which was a drop from the recent average in the mid-800s. This either means that more people are opting for online distribution or that we've had a drop in membership recently.

4. Data Officer

- Madsen followed up from Stillson's report, noting that our membership dropped from a high of around 1,900 at the end of March to a low of around 1,550 at the start of April due to the end of the membership year, which amounted to a drop of approximately 350 members, and that we were at 1,617 members at the time of this meeting.
- Madsen reported that he had sent Coastal membership data to Meni, as she had requested at our last meeting, and that she had responded that she hadn't had a chance to do anything with it but was glad to get it.
- Madsen also reported assisting Barbra Rubin in her efforts to rejoin GLAAM.

5. Historian

- Elliott reported that the old history of GLAAM is still on the national website. Elliott has communicated with the national office about this several times and has written again to follow up.
- Elliott also volunteered "to continue as Historian to complete the process of adding as many electronic documents as we have anywhere, and streamlining

our architecture as needed to facilitate navigation.”

6. *L.A. Mentary*

- Frey: “I've started the June issue. Everything's fine and wonderful.”

7. SIGHT

- Madsen read a report from Arlette Chew:

We had two travelers from Kentucky looking for housing between Santa Barbara and San Francisco in May. I wasn't able to offer help for that area, so they considered staying in LA two more nights instead, which David Ilan offered to host. They have since changed their minds about that.

We are also expecting a visitor from Indonesia May 15-23 who is interested in attending some Mensa gatherings and visiting tourist sites while here. I sent my list of things to do in LA and info on the gatherings posted so far, as well as an offer to join them for activities that fit our schedules, so we might be seeing more of them.

8. SIGs

- Jana Bickel's report is attached to these minutes as [SIG Report on Complaint by Jana Bickel.pdf](#).
- Jana also offered: “If you want to reappoint me as SIG Coordinator, that's fine. Or if somebody else wants it, that's okay. Also, I can continue to do the calendar on the website.”

9. Webmaster

- Elliott:
 - added new landing pages for Elections, Open Forum, and SIGHT.
 - moved pages for Gifted Youth and Special Interest Groups from Events to the top level.
 - modified the Join Mensa page, renamed it Testing, and added it to the top level.
 - adjusted the new homepage to accommodate various device screen sizes such as tablets.
 - made other adjustments to Contacts and the Event Calendar pages.
 - noted that the website is missing area maps for Mid-City and Inland Empire; had written to the national office asking for assistance.
 - activated the new homepage on May 3rd.
 - noted that Jordan Albert Byrne offered feedback, and the two of them agreed to explore Jordan's concerns outside of this meeting.
 - “I am willing to make myself available for consultation about architecture

or to fix any structural problems which I easily can, or in this specific case to install any further improvements which Jordan and I may agree upon, and otherwise, I present the new GLAAM website to you all as my gift, and retire as Webmaster.”

- Marriott asked further about area maps, specifically whether there is a more complete description of the area boundaries. Elliott responded that we do have a complete list of ZIP Codes for each area, and Madsen noted that the maps we have were the maps in use when he was Webmaster a decade ago, and so are undoubtedly out of date. Marriott: “if we end up getting a definition of the borders, I can probably help support recreating the maps, or making an interactive map with Google Earth or something that people can click on.”

10. Ombudsman

- Friedlander pointed out that this coming year will be the last of his current term, and the 12th year of two consecutive six-year terms. “I enjoy the position, but it's time to pass it along.”

11. Additional report from Friedlander regarding the RG

- Friedlander: “I'm willing to upgrade myself from co-chair to chair this year alongside Madeline, so you'll have both of us available to perform all the functions.”
- Because of delays negotiating with the hotel, “we're unlikely to have an RG ad in the next issue” of *L.A. Mentary*. Instead, the plan was to target an announcement in time for the Annual Gathering, “and hopefully we will have an ad in the July issue” of the newsletter.

12. Diversity Committee, Membership Committee, Scholarships Committee, Open Forum, Public Relations, Social Media, and Young Ms all offered no report.

III. Special Orders

1. Installation of the new Board by the Election Chair or designee.

- Elliott turned leadership of the meeting over to Elections Chair David Fenig at 11:34am.
- Fenig announced that the new Board consists of:
 - Madsen, Nolan, and Stillson, continuing the second of their two-year terms;
 - Lancaster, Ball, and Moses, newly elected to two-year terms; and
 - Lanaro, newly elected to a one-year term.

2. Election of the Chair by the members of the newly seated Board of Directors, under the supervision of the Election Chair or designee.

- Fenig asked for nominations for LocSec from among the seven members of the Board.
 - Ball nominated Moses. Moses accepted.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Fenig asked for discussion and/or objections to the nomination. None were offered.
 - Fenig declared Moses GLAAM's new LocSec.

3. Election of the other Executive Officers by the members of the newly seated Board of Directors, under the supervision of the Election Chair or designee.

- Fenig asked for nominations for Executive Vice Chair.
 - Ball nominated himself.
 - Stillson nominated Madsen. Madsen declined.
 - Stillson nominated Elliott, who was not on the Board and therefore not eligible.
 - Fenig asked for discussion and/or objections to the nomination. None were offered.
 - Fenig declared Ball GLAAM's Executive Vice Chair.
- Fenig asked for nominations for Administrative Vice Chair.
 - Moses nominated Madsen. Madsen declined.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Fenig declared the position open, leaving open the option to nominate again once other members have been appointed to the Board.
- Fenig asked for nominations for Secretary.
 - Stillson nominated Madsen. Madsen declined.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Fenig declared the position open, leaving open the option to nominate again once other members have been appointed to the Board.
- Fenig asked for nominations for Treasurer.
 - Moses nominated Woo, who was not on the Board and therefore not eligible.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Fenig declared the position open, leaving open the option to nominate again once other members have been appointed to the Board.

4. Installation of the new Chair of the Board.

- Fenig turned leadership of the meeting over to LocSec Moses at 11:41am.

5. Filling of any vacancies on the new Board, in accordance with procedures.

- Friedlander and others clarified that our Bylaws require filling Area positions in order of increasing population. Madsen had provided, in the agenda, current population figures for each Area for this purpose, and those numbers were used to appoint representatives in the following order.
- Moses asked for nominees for Hi-Desert Area representatives.
 - No nominations were offered.
- Moses asked for nominees for Inland Empire Area representatives.
 - Carpenter nominated himself for Inland Empire Delegate.
 - No other nominations were offered.
 - Moses asked for objections, heard none, and declared Carpenter appointed.
 - Woo was also appointed Inland Empire Secretary, but not at this point in the

meeting. That appointment came later. See below.

- Moses asked for nominees for ELAC Area representatives.
 - Cooks and Marriott nominated themselves simultaneously, and quickly agreed between themselves that Cooks would be Delegate and Marriott would be Secretary.
 - Moses declared them both appointed.
- Moses asked for nominees for Mid-City Area representatives.
 - No nominations were offered.
- Moses asked for nominees for San Fernando Valley Area representatives.
 - Stillson clarified that he was already SFV Delegate.
 - Friedlander noted that Boone had volunteered to be SFV Secretary.
 - Moses asked for objections, heard none, and declared Boone appointed.
- Moses asked for nominees for Coastal Area representatives.
 - Friedlander noted that Meni, who was not yet present, had volunteered to continue as Coastal Delegate, and that Smith, who was present, had volunteered to be Coastal Secretary. Smith confirmed her willingness to serve in that role.
 - Moses asked for other nominees and/or objections, heard none, and declared them both appointed.
- Fenig announced the members of the Board to this point, at which point it was realized that Woo had been left out of the appointments. Friedlander asked Woo if he wanted to continue as Inland Empire Secretary. He confirmed that he did, and Moses declared him appointed.
- Fenig reported 14 members on the Board at this point, as recorded above. All positions were filled except for both Hi-Desert and both Mid-City positions.
- Fenig encouraged Moses to fill unfilled Executive Officers at this point. Elliott objected that these positions are unfilled and should require two weeks notice before they can be filled. Friedlander countered that we've always filled such vacancies as part of the May meeting's Special Orders, but recommended that we first fill Committees and Coordinators and then circle back to Executive Officers. Moses proposed continuing the meeting according to Friedlander's advice. Fenig concurred.

6. Appointment of committee chairs and other appointees in accordance with procedures.

- Moses nominated the following Committee Chairs:
 - Elliott for Awards Committee; he accepted.
 - Meni for Diversity Committee; Friedlander confirmed that Meni had volunteered to continue in that position.
 - Fenig and Friedlander to continue as Elections Chair and Deputy, respectively; both accepted.
 - himself (Moses) for Finance Committee.
 - Walker and Meni to continue as Chair and Vice Chair of Gifted Youth, respectively; Walker accepted, and Friedlander confirmed that Meni had stated

her willingness to continue.

- Cooks as chair of the Membership Committee, with Marriott and Woodruff as committee members; Cooks accepted.
- Walker and Friedlander jointly as chair of the Regional Gathering committee; both accepted.
- Chad Tew was not present, and there were no written indications that he was willing to continue as Scholarships Chair, so that position was left open.
- Walker for Special Events Committee; she accepted.
- Marriott for Testing Committee; he accepted.
- Moses nominated the following Coordinators:
 - Archivist was left open. Madsen was asked if he would continue. He declined, but offered to assist the next Archivist by bringing the motions catalog and related documents up to date to the point of the end of his term as Secretary.
 - Stillson for Circulation Manager; he accepted.
 - Madsen for Data Officer; he accepted.
 - Elliott for Historian; he accepted.
 - Frey for Newsletter Editor; she accepted.
 - Friedlander confirmed that he has one more year left in his six-year term as Ombudsman, which he would complete.
 - Albert Byrne for Open Forum; he accepted.
 - Woodruff, who had volunteered, for Public Relations; she accepted.
 - Arlette Chew was not present, and there were no written indications that she was willing to continue as SIGHT Coordinator, so that position was left open.
 - Bickel for SIGs; she had left the meeting by this point, but had stated earlier in the meeting (see above) that she was willing to continue as SIG Coordinator.
 - Marriott volunteered to take on Social Media Coordinator "temporarily".
 - Discussion ensued (Madsen, Marriott, Albert Byrne) about whether we had passwords for our various social media accounts, considering that Chandler Kyle was no longer a member. Albert Byrne confirmed that he had them and could pass them on to Marriott. There was additional discussion about the need to store such things so they're not lost and can be passed along in cases like this one in the future. Marriott and Albert Byrne agreed to follow up with each other outside of this meeting.
 - Webmaster was left open. Elliott had stated earlier that he was retiring as Webmaster, and no nominations were offered.
 - Smith for Young Ms; she accepted.

7. Election of the other Executive Officers, continued

- Moses and Friedlander agreed to circle back at this point to fill vacant Executive Officer positions.
- Moses asked for volunteers for Administrative Vice Chair.
 - Meni, who had arrived by this point, asked for clarification about what the AVC

does. Discussion ensued, including reference to the Volunteer Guidelines.

- Meni volunteered to serve as AVC.
- Moses declared Meni elected.
- Moses asked for volunteers for Secretary.
 - No nominations were offered.
 - The position remained open.
- Moses asked for volunteers for Treasurer.
 - Moses asked Woo if he would like to volunteer.
 - Woo: "Not really, but I will accept the position."
 - Moses asked for other nominations and/or discussion or objections. None were offered.
 - Moses declared Woo re-elected as Treasurer.

8. Approval of the remaining agenda by the new Board.

- Ball initially objected to the agenda presented in this meeting because it was modified three days before the date of this meeting rather than a week before as recommended by the Volunteer Guidelines, calling that revision "out of order". Ball moved to approve only the draft agenda that was circulated prior to that time, which did not include additional text from Elliott following the single item of unfinished business.
- 13 and a half minutes of parliamentary discussion later, the Board, including Ball himself, voted down Ball's motion, and voted instead to approve the agenda circulated most recently. No vote count was taken. The motion to approve the latest agenda carried without objection.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Pre-printing approval of the GLAAM newsletter (Ball)

- This discussion lasted 42 and a half minutes, which included two motions to extend the meeting. The first was moved by Ball and seconded by Stillson. The other was moved by Ball and seconded by Marriott.
- Ball reviewed the discussion so far: that the problem he was hoping to solve was that production of the newsletter sometimes resulted in late delivery; that he had initially submitted a motion that he hoped would streamline the proofreading process; that at our last meeting, the Board had proposed modifying the Volunteer Guidelines Newsletter Editor's guidelines, paragraph B, because that paragraph was regarded as out of date; and that Elliott had proposed language to replace that paragraph, which appears in the agenda.
- Ball moved to adopt Elliott's language, but to add the word "The" before the words "Editor's draft" and to omit the final clause, that is, "or the Board of Directors (as the named publisher of the newsletter) may require one or more additional proofreading steps on a temporary basis."
 - Marriott seconded this in order to allow for discussion.
 - Marriott and Elliott both stated their view that the final clause was important, among other reasons, because the Board should have the authority to prevent a

newsletter issue from being published if it has concerns about that issue's content, and that this should be clearly identified.

- Ball asserted that that final clause was out of order since it includes a statement which appears in the Bylaws, that the Board is the named publisher of the newsletter, and is therefore a restatement of the status quo. "So the point about the Board of Directors being the name the publisher of the newsletter, as already existed, that's redundant. If it's redundant, then the whole motion itself is out of order."
- Ball further asserted that if the Board did not vote for his motion, then the whole motion fails, with the result that the discussion would revert back to his original motion about limiting pre-printing approval rather than modifying Paragraph B.
- Elliott objected that the language is necessary to clarify who has authority over the content of the newsletter, and is therefore not redundant.
- Stillson made the point that the language under discussion presumes that the Circulation Manager is the proofreader, which may not necessarily be the case in the future, and suggested rewording to remove reference to the Circulation Manager specifically, and instead to replace that with more general language referring to a designated proofreader.
- Marriott moved, and Carpenter seconded, to amend the motion to include the entirety of Elliott's original language, including the final clause, but to include the word "The" before the words "Editor's draft."
 - Stillson objected that this still didn't address his concern about conflating the proofreader and the Circulation Manager. Carpenter and Marriott agreed that that would be dealt with separately.
- Woo noted the shortness of time and encouraged the Board to postpone for a later time so that the language of this motion and its many amendments could be streamlined. "I don't want to vote on anything that I haven't been able to read and digest. Right now, I've seen several versions and proposed changes, and I'd like to see what the final amendment would be, and so I am not inclined to vote on anything at this point."
 - There was general agreement on this point. Woo moved, Stillson seconded, to postpone the discussion. Ball abstained, and enough others voted in favor to pass the motion to postpone, although no count was taken.
 - When this discussion continues, Elliott and others noted that it will continue where it left off, and where it left off was with an amendment to include all of Elliott's written language as a replacement for Paragraph B, but with "The" inserted before "Editor's draft".
- Elliott made a final comment in favor of Stillson's point that whatever language the Board adopts should divorce the proofreading task from the role of Circulation Manager.
- Marriott invited "commentary on Jonathan's language [...] between now and the next meeting," specifically calling on Stillson to comment.
 - Stillson concurred, and volunteered "to get involved sending emails back and forth with all the key players on this to help put the language together and try to come up with a group decision."

- There was no new business.

VI. Closing

A. Good of the Order

1. Ball asked how we the LocSec@glaam.us.mensa.org email alias would behave now that a change in LocSec has occurred.
2. Frey asked the new members of the Board and new volunteers to contact her to let her know how they want their contact information to appear in the newsletter.
3. Meni welcomed the new volunteers.

B. Adjournment

- Moses moved, Ball seconded, and Moses declared the meeting adjourned at 1:17pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Brian Madsen, Outgoing GLAAM Secretary*