

CMG Board Meeting Minutes  
Camp Newman, Well-Lit Library  
September 3, 2010  
Meeting Began 2:16 PM

### **Executive Board**

President: Joe Wagenhofer, Vice-President: Ben-Andy Hein, Treasurer: Dave Clark, (Late Arrival) Secretary: Mohabee Serrano (Milton Markey)

### **Officers**

Webmaster: Jim Rubioyanes, Communications Director: James Badberg, Arts Coordinator: Ed Wahl; (Late Arrival) Archivist: Mohabee Serrano, Director of Development: Christopher Johnson, Registration: Ben-Andy Hein

### **Representatives of Planning Committees (PCs)**

68<sup>th</sup> CMG: Steve Anderson; 69<sup>th</sup> CMG: Absent, 70<sup>th</sup> CMG: Robert Burnham

### **Representatives of Local Events Committees (LECs)**

San Diego: Milo Shapiro, Desert Cities (Late Arrival): Jamie Simmons, Los Angeles: Steve Fiechter, Bay Area: Drew Blanchar, Sacramento: Rich Farshler

### **Visitors**

Mike Fahy, Ed Perez, Buzz Young, Chuck Allen, Frank Rothacker, Al-Binky Hoch [late arrival], Jordan Lieberman [late arrival]

### **Absent**

Phillip Bowden, 69<sup>th</sup> CMG; Lee Usher, Technical Advisor

### **Approval of the Spring Minutes (Joe)**

Dave Moves, Robert B seconds. Approved by acclamation.

### **Summary of this Meeting**

#### **ByLaws**

No Bylaws were considered or revised at this meeting.

#### **Operating Procedures**

##### **Name of Proposal**

##### **Action Taken**

Treasury Reserve

Tabled to 2011 Annual Business Meeting

Fee to Defray Pre-Gathering Expenses

Approved

Medical Marijuana Use at Gatherings

Tabled to 2011 Annual Business Meeting

Annual Business Meeting Date Change \*

Approved

Plenary Process Revision

Approved

Official CMG Song

Approved

D & O Insurance Purchase

Approved

\*In accordance with revised ByLaw, passed at 2010 JBM.

### **In addition, these items were accepted:**

Next CMG Board Retreat Location (Board)

CMG Tee Shirt Proposal (Communications Director)

Fee Payment Process--revert to "through process" (Registration)

Purchase of New Gathering Items (70<sup>th</sup> CMG)

### **Treasurer's Report (Dave Clark)**

Dave provided the current status of the CMG Board account. The revised spreadsheets are included with these Minutes, as separate documents. Here are the major points Dave provided to the Board:

1. Actual Board Expenses of \$16,047 through August 31, 2010 are 62% of the full year Budget of \$25,811. Board Spending is on track to come in on or under budget for the full year 2010. Since Jim Hoffman has decided not to spend the \$1,400 approved to film the AIDS Walks, we have more than enough in the Budget (under "Special Projects") to cover Directors and Officers Insurance, which had not been included in the budget.
2. CMG 67 Chair Mike Fahy requested Board Approval to spend \$1,700 of the CMG 67 Surplus on equipment, and that was passed by the Board. The remaining \$2,968 will go to Financial Aid for CMG 70.
3. On behalf of the CMG 70 Planning Committee, Dave Clark presented the proposed CMG 70 Budget. After some questions and discussion, the Board asked Dave to make two revisions to the CMG 70 Budget, as follows:
  - a. Show the cost of the Financial Aid contained in the proposed CMG 70 Budget, with comparable amounts for CMG 67 actual.
  - b. Recalculate the 10% of Revenue Contribution to the Board to exclude all forms of Financial Aid Revenue from the computation.

Subject to the above revisions, the Board approved the CMG 70 Budget. Dave was asked to provide a copy of the revised CMG 70 Budget to the Secretary for inclusion in the Minutes of the Board Meeting.

Dave Clark was queried about the CMG "reserve" monies, which are kept for "urgent needs." A proposal will be submitted to the 2011 Annual Business Meeting, concerning the reserves. Here is the action taken:

### **Treasury Reserve (Dave)**

Action: Tabled to the 2011 ABM (unanimous)

To be proposed at the ABM 2011: How to use and allocate funds from the CMG reserve. It was moved and seconded to table this matter to the 2011 CMG Annual Business Meeting (ABM).

### ***Questions and Discussion-Treasurer's Report***

Joe: how are we accounting for financial assistance in the forthcoming budgets? There is not a clear way to tell how donated money is being used. Joe suggests that we begin to think about the FA as an "expense" borne by Planners. Dave says that two additional lines could be added to the budgetary sheets, to show FA disbursements. B-A says that our IRS filing status is "cash only," and we can only show true income and purchases.

Jordan thinks we need to add the carried-over donations to the next year's budget.

Jordan also asks: is the calculation made to exclude donations, to be included in the total returned to the Board, at the end of the Gathering?

### **Fee to Defray Pre-Gathering Expenses (Ben-Andy)**

Vote: 11Y--unanimously approved.

BA says nearly 100 guys came to the 67<sup>th</sup> CMG Thursday, and helped prepare the camp for the Gathering. Though the Planners of the Gathering were grateful for these helpers, there were additional catering costs, to feed the volunteers at dinner and breakfast, the next morning.

Ben-Andy asked the Board to require an “early arrival” fee of \$20, paid by each early-arriving volunteer, to cover the additional catering, or other expenses for “pre-gathering” attendees. Dave says it might discourage volunteers to come early, for set-up. Despite this possibility, the Board voted unanimously to approve the fee.

### **68<sup>th</sup> CMG Report (Christopher)**

167 Attendees are expected for the 68<sup>th</sup> CMG. Christopher told the Board that the Planners are moving right along, in the final preparations, though volunteerism is below what is needed. Christopher encourages the able-bodied Board Members to help with the set-up, after the meeting.

### **Director Of Development Report (Christopher)**

\$550 was sent from 67<sup>th</sup> CMG PC, money derived from the silent auction proceeds, to fund financial assistance. Christopher says the D. of D. is slow due to his participation as interim Communications Director. Christopher says the Development team may consider funding property purchase for a CMG World, as a future goal. There are other goals to be considered, which can be enabled in the near future. Right now, the goal is to fund financial assistance (FA) to Gatherings, and conducting silent auctions and other fund-raisers for FA.

### **2010 Board Retreat Report (Drew)**

Drew says 14 men attended. The attendees were joined by other LEC-BA men for the “tribal journey.” Drew says there was a good feeling and we were quite productive at this retreat, which occurred in mid-July. The retreat was a time to review where we are, in terms of the past, present, and future of the CMG. The attendees discussed how to reach our goals while also remaining spontaneous and creative. Drew says we got to know each other well during the two day event.

At the retreat, we determined that the new CMG Mission Statement needs to be recognized by Planning Committees and at other CMG meetings. In addition, it was recommended that the Mission Statement be added to all CMG messages sent to E-notify subscribers.

#### *Discussion notes:*

BA: The facilitator didn't know the CMG, but he got to know the internal story after the Sat. afternoon session. At closing ceremony, we had Angel Car Wash, which he was unfamiliar with. He came out “knowing” the CMG experience, and may be a Gathering attendee.

Milo: Were any decisions made during the retreat?

Joe: This was a “brainstorming session,” and the intent was to foster growth, and not make decisions.

Dave: There's a concern that more people don't know the new CMG Mission Statement. Dave will pass out laminated copies to PC's and LEC's. so they can recite the Statement during meetings, or make it available for inspection by Planners and attendees.

### **Medical Marijuana at Gatherings (Steve and Joe)**

Tabled to 2011 ABM (unanimous)

Joe introduced Steve, and agenda item 10--use of medical "MJ" in Gatherings. Steve says this was a query someone posed, at a pride celebration. There is no CMG policy concerning this matter.

*Discussion notes:*

BA: says with medical MJ there are two issues: medical use and where to smoke.

Mohabee: One must carry a special ID tag, or a prescription to prove the lawful use of MJ.

Mike: we need to check with the camps, too, for any camp policy concerning medicinal MJ use.

Milo: how will the policy be made public? He is concerned about unlawful sharing with others, for recreational reasons, which is echoed by Ed.

Dave: we could make it clear the difference between real medicine and recreational drugs.

Robert: we need to be cautious--no overt announcements.

Joe: thinks that we can allow attendees to use MJ with a prescription, as long as it is done discretely.

Open Question: How to monitor usage, particularly in tents and cars?

Non-recreational drugs are prohibited by CMG policy. One signs an agreement to abide by this policy.

Steve thinks that a PC might want to know whether it's OK or not, and with clarity. Joe suggests that this be tabled to the 2011 ABM.

### **70<sup>th</sup> CMG Purchases over \$500 (Dave)**

Vote: 10-Yes; 0-No; 0-Abstain; approved unanimously.

Expenditure for Galaxy Lights, and pool chairs, air pumps for inflatable pool toys.

\$600 for lights; \$900 for chairs; \$200 air pumps; \$2500 financial assistance.

### **Annual Business Meeting Date Change (Ben-Andy)**

Vote: 10-Yes; 0-No; 0-Abstain; approved unanimously.

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In accordance with the change in designation from "January Business Meeting," to "Annual Business Meeting (ABM)," there will be an ABM Date Change, for 2011. Over the first weekend in February (Feb. 5 & 6), the forthcoming 2011 ABM will be held in Sierra Madre (Nature Friends camp). BA described the camp, which is owned by Ken Symington.

### **Board Retreat in 2011 (Ben-Andy)**

Vote: 10-Yes; 0-No; 0-Abstain; approved unanimously.

Ben Andy says he'll offer a time share condo that he and his partner, Steven, have access to. He suggests a resort in Indio, which will be comfortable, despite the heat of summer in the desert. BA says a second condo in the same building might be available for \$50. Ben-Andy will make the arrangements, and will report to the Board, regarding the actual dates and location.

### **CMG Plenary Process (Milo and Mohabee)**

CMG Plenaries, using the traditions and policies which are currently in place, will continue to be held, when needed, and shall be scheduled in non-conflicted time during Gatherings. All proposals which are brought to a Plenary, shall be from the Circle of Concerns

preceding the Plenary, and shall be recommendations only, to future Planning Committees of the same season.

Vote: 11-Yes; 0-No; 0-Abstain; approved unanimously.

### ***History of CMG Plenaries***

Plenaries have evolved from a simple “grassroots” meeting for planners, and CMG attendees. Between 1978 and 1994, Plenaries were also the forum for making decisions for the statewide CMG’s. After incorporation, and to the present, CMG Plenaries, and their preceding “sister” meetings, the Circles of Concerns, have been held to help Gathering Planners of specific seasons make changes in procedure or to make strong recommendations for the future Planners of the same season, to consider. Occasionally, a matter that is brought up at a Plenary will go on to the ABM, to become a statewide policy, but most of the recent Plenary proceedings have been focused on matters best resolved by the local Planning Committees.

From the first Plenary to the most recent one, held at the 67<sup>th</sup> CMG, Plenaries considered both mandatory policies and recommendations to Planners. Questions have arisen, concerning the validity of mandates to Planners, from proposals which were presented to recent Plenaries.

### ***Discussion:***

Milo: Plenary decisions, especially mandates, may hamper the Planners so that they can’t make decisions about an issue.

ED: thinks we need proposals on record, for Planners to consider.

Milo: this seems knee-jerk. There was some value for it to be administered in the past, but now we have an active Board, as well as the ABM. Plenary decisions can’t be revoked or revised for a year. Plenary decisions can’t be changed by the Board or by the ABM’s, which means there is no method of appealing the policies approved by Plenaries.

After the initial round of discussion, Milo proposed to eliminate the Plenaries, and keep the Circles of Concern, in order to continue holding a forum for concerns brought by attendees of Gatherings. After a number of Board Members expressed their disapproval of this motion, this proposal was withdrawn by its author, and then the discussion centered on whether mandates were appropriate for Plenaries to decide upon. Another round of discussion was heard to this matter. Most of the Board favored keeping the Plenaries, but allowing recommendations to Planners only. Mandates could be sent to the Board for consideration, or to the next ABM, according the voices heard in this discussion.

Dave: favors letting the local concerns be held at Circles of Concerns and Plenaries, and to keep these forums, instead of the Board being involved with such decisions. Dave favors limiting decisions at Plenaries to recommendations to Planners only.

Joe: There are four things that can be the outcome of a Plenary:

- Strong recommendations to local issues.
- Referral to Board or ABM.
- Bring it to Board attention, for statewide consideration.
- A proposal can be withdrawn
- A proposal can be rejected.

The finished proposal was presented to the Board for a vote, and everyone voted in favor of adopting this policy.

**Official CMG Song (Ed, CMG Arts Coordinator)**

Proposal: Adopt *Home Is Where the Heart Is* as the “official” CMG song.

Vote: 10-Yes; 0-No; 0-Abstain; approved unanimously.

Second Proposal: Board approval for finding the copyright owner, in case we want to post the song on the web or gathering similar public performance rights. Ed wants to get specific instructions from the Board. Ed is asking for permission of the songwriter. Ed has checked with a copyright expert to see if we can find the copyright owner. We can sing it at Gatherings and during other events, without any copyright royalties or other infringement concerns.

Ben-Andy: Matt Yee knows the songwriter and has conferred with him. The songwriter is OK with CMG use of the song. Matt suggested that the CMG offer a token “royalty,” for our usage of the song, to the songwriter.

Joe: suggests that the Board approve the song as the CMG song, and that Ed create a committee to explore copyright, and update the Board with a report at the next meeting.

**Communications Director’s Report (James)**

Does not need any help from Board at this time; encourages that there be a low key use of I contact system. There is now a template for announcements.

**CMG Tee Shirts (Milo)**

Proposal: The Communications Director will look into designing and offering an official CMG Tee Shirt.

Action: accepted by acclimation.

Milo thinks a standardized Tee Shirt is necessary. He showed the Board a shirt he is wearing, a red shirt with white letters, which say “Ask Me About The CMG.” He suggests that “California Men’s Gatherings” be added below the “CMG.”

CMG Communications Director, James, suggests that the Chiron and blue be used, for uniformity, and sees designing it with the full name of the corporation.

Mohabee recalls that there is a “branding” policy in effect, which requires CMG Tee Shirts to have the official logo and slogan on it.

Ben-Andy: The red shirt design was for N.CA. Pride booth volunteers to wear, but it’s an unofficial shirt.

**Aids Walk Update (Dave)**

Jim Hoffman and Reynold Watkins are holding a pool party as a fund-raiser (\$20; free for volunteers), with catered meal for LEC-LA. Jim will postpone making the movie this year, but will look at this as a learning experience.

### **Directors and Officers Insurance (Ben-Andy)**

Proposal: buy a pre-existing condition coverage policy that does not exceed \$1500/year, for the first year, and \$600 per year thereafter. The Exec Comm. shall look into naming an insurer, and purchasing the policy.

Vote: 11-yes; 0-No; 0-Abstain; adopted unanimously

D & O insurance covers the corporation, when someone sues the corporation. Our current insurer works a bit differently than routine insurers; as long as the Board is insured, we're covered.

Our insurer, NUYAC, will cover us: \$626 with a terrorism clause; \$600 with no terrorism clause. Ben-Andy wants a recommendation to the Exec. Board, to approve the purchase of a policy, which is offered by our insurer. This policy will cover the CMG Board retroactively (back to 2004).

Dave: \$1400, derived from the unused AIDS Walk budget will be used.

Joe: this would cover frivolous lawsuits and attorney fees only.

### **CMG Procedures and Bylaws Update (Joe)**

Dave Clark will reorganize policies and procedures, and Joe is organizing the ByLaws. Both documents will be presented at the 2011 ABM.

### **Online Registration Changes (Ben-Andy, Registration)**

Action: accepted by acclimation

Ben-Andy reported that an applicant complained that he could not register for a Gathering through the current online registration system. One has the choice of PayPal, or paying by check through the mail. Currently an applicant pays the fee through PayPal, in addition to paying the cost of PayPal processing. With the onset of increases at PayPal, and the inconvenience of calculating and processing fees separately, Ben-Andy proposes using E-Commerce, a resource that allows the direct payment of CMG fees by credit or debit card.

Ben-Andy suggests that we revert to the original system, and allow a percentage to be added to the given fees so that online costs are covered. This change will enable through-paid registrations. Those who pay by check will pay a smaller percentage. So we're really offering the fee slightly higher for check payers, and nearly 5% for those using debit or credit cards.

Ben-Andy plans to instruct CMG attendees about this change, through the "all about the money" page on the CMG website.

### **CMG Website Update (Jim, CMG Webmaster)**

I-Contact messages are getting through; James is working with Jim, to standardize the information being sent out. Common formatting will be suggested and implemented.

### **Forthcoming CMG Board Meeting Announcements (Joe)**

Joe makes a commitment to announce forthcoming Board Meetings, and the agenda.

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### **To Be Considered At The Next CMG Board Meeting:**

Green Committee report, Senior Center (“CMG World”) Report, and CMG Resource List are tabled to the next meeting. LA Cares progress will also be reported at next meeting. “Five Bold Moves” report will be heard at the next meeting, too.

### **Next CMG Board Meeting**

Next meeting is 1:00 PM, Friday, Nov. 26, 2010, at Camp Pathfinder (69th CMG).

### **Meeting adjourned 5:05 PM**

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### **Addendum**

Revised Board Treasury Spreadsheet--see attached document.

67<sup>th</sup> CMG Final Treasury Report--see attached document.

Revised 70<sup>th</sup> CMG Budget--see attached document.

### **Updates**

69<sup>th</sup> CMG Update--*not presented to the Board Meeting:*

CMG 69 SD Report for the Board Meeting at Santa Rosa

We have a contract on the Pathfinder Ranch in Idyllwild for Thanksgiving Weekend, November 26th thru 29th. We are working on the logistics of where everything will be going this year. We visited the camp in June to answer some questions about where some things will go. We may be moving a few things into different locations than in previous years, but have not made a final decision on it yet. We are trying to finalize the logo for the gathering, and will hold another meeting here at Santa Rosa.

I will be working with Marie in the kitchen close to the time for the gathering to see what we will be having for our meals that weekend. I know we will be having a salad bar as last year and also a buffet. The vegetarian meals will be in a different location this year so that that won't get eaten up before everyone goes thru the line.

We have purchased a new hot tub this year. The old one was 10 years old and it wouldn't be able to withstand another year without some major repairs, so it was cheaper to purchase a new one.

We have been having monthly meeting, and closer to the gathering, we will have them more frequently. We are looking forward to having a good gathering. I know that 69th gathering will be good to us all. I know last year we have snow with the special effect but we don't know what the weather will be this year. We will again have the ropes course and horse back riding still with weather permitting.

Phillip Bowden