

California Men's Gatherings
Annual Business Meeting
January 14 & 15, 2012

In Attendance

Members (27)

Mohabee Serrano, Thomas Nicholson, James Brown, Sr., Frank Rothacker, Charley Malarkey, Drew Blanchar, James Badberg, Jamie Simmons, Clay Kilgore*, Phil Darby, Ed Wahl, Mike Fahy, Gregg Cassin*, Eduardo Perez, Ben-Andy Hein, Joe Wagenhofer, Dave Clark, Robert Burnham, Norman Skonovd, Jim Ruboyianes, Milo Shapiro, Stephen Shane, Phil Canberry, Chris Magnani, David Knopf*, David Senk*, Steve Ibarra*

Visitors (1)

Sairus Patel*

**Indicates first-time at an Annual Business Meeting.*

Meeting Called to Order: 10:27 AM, Jan. 14, 2012

Home is Where the Heart Is is sung, led by Arts Coordinator Ed Wahl; Opening announcements given; Introductions are also provided. A moment of silence, followed by a brief time of remembrance, was held, for Michael Bell, and other CMG men who are deceased.

Annual Reports To Members

President's Message (Mike Fahy)

According to notes of the last ABM, integral intention and integrated practice has been on his mind. This message serves as an invitation to carry the CMG intentionally along the natural healthy path of human development.

A chart is shown, of the progression spirals of human stages of development:

- Survival
- Kin Spirits
- Power Gods
- Truth Force
- Strive Drive (rational)
- Human Bonding—*CMG began and lives here; negative side is narcissism and self-centered behavior*
- Flex Flow—a time of integration of the previous levels; the level that includes all humans—waves of flexibility to integrate the first levels.
- Whole View
- Integral-Holonic

Besides these stages of development are the "Spirals of Development," which encompass each stage of growth. The spirals are represented by specific colors, to identify each progressive stage of development. Mike noted that every one of the spirals contains the stages of development which occurred before, and each spiral carries all of the earlier stages forward.

One can be at different levels throughout one's life. Each one of the Development Stages rejects the others (downside). Yet, one needs to have each one of the stages in a balanced way.

The problem is that there is no integration between the levels. Each level denies the future levels.

We can only move to the next level of development, after the one being developed is completed—no skipping over a level!

Mike invites the group to develop the CMG's pattern of growth to completion. Loving and guiding every stage of development, without getting stuck, as individuals, as a "value group," and as part of the world, to the next stage. Failure of moving to the next stage will culminate in continued fighting amongst the elements, but no one has a hold on the truth. Mike says that understanding integral thinking is key to our future growth.

Questions:

Robert: asks for the chart to be re-read.

Frank: Who are the experts and are there any scholarly citations?

Mike responded, saying Ken Wilbur is a respected author and researcher in Integral Thinking.

Sairus: asks for clarification about power gods.

Mike refers to the book *Mythical Living Spirits*. The Power Gods level is often seen in childhood: dragons, feudal empires, conquer, outfox, and dominate. It is also seen most commonly during "terrible twos" and the "rebellious youth" stages of growth. 20% of the world's population is still in this stage, due to cultural beliefs.

Jim: Are first six stages centered around narcissism?

Mike: Narcissism doesn't have to happen at all; it's an imbalance and not "normal" development. Narcissism may not occur at all in some levels, such as during the "Truth Force" and the "Strive Drive" levels. Narcissism exists in the "Human Bonding" level, as a "shadow" or negative form.

Milo: Do we continue to be in the growth stages?

Human life is dependent on growth. And growth is dependent of the continuous development of each level. Some societies might be operating in one fixed level or another.

Robert: Is there a plan to integrate these levels of growth into the CMG's growth?

Mike: Yes. Besides workshops, we already have a powerful CMG "language," which will help us grow into further stages. But we need to have more words that can be used to address the problems that are related to our group.

Ed Wahl: Is it possible to learn more?

Mike: The Integral Institute has several places around the world. The book *A Theory of Everything*, by Ken Wilber (2000), is the reference for this discussion. This is a summary book, of the Integral theory. *Sex, Ecology, and Spirituality* (1995), by the same author.

Charley: How do you know when one is experiencing the "green" level (Human Bonding), and then moving on to the "yellow" level (Flex Form)?

This is a question Mike also has, and to which there is no clear answer.

With this frame in mind, we could invite men to participate in the levels, through workshops and other educational exercises.

A 10-minute break is called.

Meeting reconvenes 11:40 AM

A Timekeeper and a Vibes Keeper are selected, for the Member's Meeting.

Timekeeper: Dave Clark; Vibes: Clay Kilgore;

Drew Blanchard reads the CMG Mission Statement.

Reports of the Board Officers—*Reminder: no cross-talk. Each report will be no longer than two minutes.*

Vice-President (Ben-Andy Hein)

- Keeps records of Membership and qualifications of each Member.
- Oversees newcomer orientations at Gatherings. B-A thanks the orienteers of the 2011 Gatherings.

Secretary (Mohabee Serrano)

Mohabee reported that he attended all of the Board Meetings held in 2011, and took minutes for these meetings, and the 2011 ABM, held in West Hollywood. He also prepared the agenda for the Board Meetings, received and compiled reports, and did other preparatory efforts, prior to both the ABM and the Board Meetings.

Treasurer (Ed Perez)

Ed strives to keep the CMG budget tight but flexible enough for unexpected situations. He said that the reconciliation of our funds is a “balanced budget.”

Appointed Officers

Director of Communications (James Badberg)

Goal is to communicate with the public clearly and professionally; and sees that all communications are handled to the best of his abilities.

Webmaster (Jim Ruboyianes)

Maintain and manages the CMG internet presence. The website answers the questions of a newcomer to Gatherings and Events. The website includes events, which are posted momentarily, sometimes several a day. Jim has been involved with 25 Gatherings.

Arts Coordinator (Ed Wahl)

Details provided in Art’s C. report to the Board: summary: Official Song at each Gathering. He coordinates arts projects during the Gatherings, such as “Gathering Man.” Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and oversees copyright issues, for music and materials used at Gatherings. Ed says there was much time spent on the work regarding copyrights, and this research yielded consciousness about these matters.

Archivist /Historian (Mohabee Serrano)

Mohabee says that he installed three CMG Archive Roadshows during 2011. He thanked his volunteer helpers. He said that he updated the CMG History 101 webpage, and invited the Members to take a look at it. Mohabee indicated that Michael Bell passed away last October, and left a legacy of hope and leadership with the CMG.

Development Director (Dave Clark)

Dave says this position is to develop a fund-raising process, for FA and possible future programs. The DD accounts for funds into FA account.

Registrar (Ben-Andy Hein)

The registrar keeps track of our databases, on a statewide basis. B-A says he’s researching a new system, which may or may not be usable by the CMG.

Technical Advisor (No Report--Lee Usher is absent)

Planning Committees

73rd CMG (Robert “Quark” Burnham)

Changes in this Gathering: Earlier registration; Tent for talent shows and community gatherings; continuation of the “Carnival” of the 70th CMG. “Discover Your Passion” is the theme of the upcoming Spring Gathering.

74th CMG (Chris Magnani)

Negotiations with Camp Newman continue; the ‘Green Program’ will include bus service, and minimal recycling. During the year, the storage unit will be cleaned up. Emergency coordinator will be chosen. No theme yet.

75th CMG (Phil Darby)

First meeting will occur next week; primary goal is a possible move back to Camp Stevens in Julian, in early November.

Local Events Committees

LEC-BA (Drew Blanchar)

Small group, holding monthly meetings, 5-6 local events per month. SF Pride booth is managed by LEC-BA.

LEC-SAC (Norman)

4-member group in Sacramento; events attract 10-14 men each; most successful event is river rafting trip in the summer. Joint events with LEC-BA, such as Jelly Belly tour; Sacramento will host the Board Retreat this year. Most of the attendees are older men, but there is a goal to attract younger men.

LEC-DC (Jamie Simmons)

The LEC-DC is small; two important figures died recently, and others resigned. Solicitation of new members to the LEC-DC is underway.

LEC-LA (Thomas Nicholson)

170 Events occurred in 2011. Spirituality Weekend is scheduled for first weekend of February.

LEC-SD (Milo Shapiro)

Some committee members resigned, but three to four events per month is the average. Pool parties and Holiday parties are biggest draws. There are 4 LEC-SD members at this time.

A Break is called; 4-5 minutes. Mike indicates a change in the agenda for the day: Officer Elections, followed by the revision of the CMG Bylaws.

Meeting resumes 12:30 PM

Mike reads the qualifications and officer task descriptions, from CMG ByLaws. The Executive Officers include:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Question: Are there any duties for the Executive Committee (“EC”)?

Mike: Yes, the EC takes responsibility for the corporation in the interim between the Board Meetings. Decisions which affect the statewide organization may be made by the Executive Committee.

12:43 PM Lunch Break is called; the meeting room is changed for the afternoon sessions.

Meeting reconvened 2:01 PM.

Election of Executive Officers

Ben-Andy served as the proctor, with Thomas as his assistant. Ben-Andy introduced the incumbent candidates:

Mike Fahy, President; Mohabee Serrano, Secretary; Ed Perez, Treasurer. The Vice-President position is up for nomination.

Ben-Andy opens the floor to nominations for all Executive Officers.

Ed: Steve Ibarra is nominated for VP—he accepts.

Jamie: Gregg Kason, for VP—Gregg declines.

Jim: Robert Burnham, for VP—he accepts.

James: Dave Clark, for VP—he declines.

Ben-Andy: Dave Clark, for Treasurer—he declines

Joe moves to close the nominations; Ed seconds.

The Candidates were then questioned about their aspirations for Vice-Presidency.

Goals for Vice-Presidency

Steve Ibarra wants to “shake things up” and to invite younger men, new energy, and new blood to the CMG. Steve most recently served the LEC-BA.

Robert Burnham has taken on more and more CMG responsibilities, and wants to take this on. Robert has been the Board Rep for three Spring PCs, and also served the LEC-LA.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

Would the VP position affect the position the candidate now holds?

Robert is “termed-out” as the Board Rep, for the Spring Gatherings. Will take the challenge of serving the Executive Committee.

Steve will use the resources of the Board of Directors to get the job done.

Board Experience:

Robert has been Board Representative for Spring PCs.

Steve: Has no previous Board experience.

What are pressing issues for the Board?

Robert: Keeping the peace, and guiding the leadership, despite any emerging controversy.

Steve: Getting the CMG into the 21st Century. We need new techniques, and need to follow a new form of leadership.

What can you offer, the current Executive Committee?

Steve will take time to learn about the position of Vice-President, and about the others on the Executive Committee.

Robert will provide a firm, yet warm hand to making decisions.

What about the current issues in Los Angeles? How will you [Steve] deal with distance?

Steve: We have Skype, we have email, and distance is no problem.

Final Remark:

Robert: A Board Rep. has two roles, being a committee member, and being a Board Member. The CMG has priority, so it's a juggling act at times.

Steve: I look forward to moving the Board ahead, and assisting in resolving the diversity issues that are apparent.

All Five Candidates were then sequestered out of the room, and a private discussion about all of the candidates convened.

The candidates returned to the room, and a ballot vote for the Vice-President occurred. Ben-Andy, Sairus, and Thomas counted the ballots.

Steve wins the election for Vice-President.

Mohabee, Mike, and Ed were re-elected for Secretary, President, and Treasurer, respectively. Ben-Andy was then thanked for his service, as Vice-President, since 2009.

Mike acknowledged Joe Wagenhofer, for his service as former President, and for helping Mike make the transition into president, a smooth one. Joe was further acknowledged by Mike for the work done during his term of office (2007-2010).

A question was raised by Milo—about a message that came to the attention of the Board, from Barry Schoenfeld, regarding term limits—Dave said two passages in the former ByLaws were in conflict, but the intention of the policies is correct, and that we have been operating correctly under the ByLaws that apply to this matter.

CMG ByLaws Revision (Dave Clark)

Dave took on the task of revising the Bylaws, based upon the last revision, in 2009. Dave checked the State Attorney's website, to check on the validity of the legal bylaws. Upon consultation with Mike Fahy, current CMG Policy was added, and changes, if any, were also made. Formatting changes were also made.

Mike told the members that typos, and punctuation errors are to be given to Dave, at the conclusion of the meeting, and not during this session. The final version will be presented to the Board, and then it will be published and put into effect accordingly,

Mike also informed the Members that specific changes or amendments to the draft revision will be dealt with after Dave's presentation.

Discussion (Dave Clark)

Dave pointed out that the old Mission Statement was fully removed, and the new one, adopted in 2010, replaced it. Other items that were changed: LECs were acknowledged, and are also included in the organizational framework.

Article 6 Officers: As Dave worked on this document, several revisions were made, and one point of the "Executive Officers" was moved to Article 6 (see revision). Jim: is the distinction between Officers and Directors something that would affect the CMG D& O Insurance? Ben-Andy says the insurance will cover us, no matter how we choose to designate our leaders.

P. 7, how the elections are made is pointed out. Part 7—compensation of directors, will remain as it is. More corrections: regular meetings. This was added to make the meeting dates more visible, for the notice that's required for Board Meetings.

Article 5: Officers--#2—

Execution of instruments: Treasurer's duties—control and disbursement items were revised. It's suggested that we allow an internal review of the Treasurer's activities from time to time.

Location of Offices: Section one and two—a more general item, since we have no “physical” office.

Annual report: change the practice of excluding the Gathering and LEC budgets and operating expenses, and include these items to the annual report.

Procedural Question:

Sairus is here, but he's frustrated due to the changing schedule of the day. He raised this, since he has been here all day to raise a concern at the Circle of Concerns. Mike apologized about this conundrum, and will conduct the Circle of Concerns after the break. The Bylaws revision will be held after the Circle of Concerns.

3:05, a break is called for. The Meeting reconvened 3:37 PM

Circle of Concerns

Procedure: Each person in the circle will be given the opportunity to provide a proposal, in a specified manner. After the last concern is heard, the proposals will be given priority through a straw poll. 5 minutes will be given, to present each proposal.

Concerns And The Straw Poll Results

David Senk: Statewide communications systems selection process Votes: 14a

Phil Darby: What is the definition of “membership?” Votes: 8-8B

Frank: CMG Website will provide the legal address of CMG, Inc. *Referred to the Webmaster*

Jim: What is “transparency?” Votes: 16

Jim: What is considered a “Gathering?” Votes: 7

Steve: What has been done in the past to include diversity, and how can we include men of diverse backgrounds? (discussion requested) Votes: 18

Milo: LEC-LA and “separate organization?” *Referred to the Board of Directors*

Ben-Andy: Changes in how “membership” is defined. Votes: 13

Ed Perez: LEC officer elections once a year. Vote: 14b

Ed Wahl: CMG Blog to make transparency for ABMs and Board Meetings. Votes: 8-7C

Ed Wahl: (Discussion) Define what we mean by “success.” To be distributed to PCs and LECs. Vote: 8-9 A

Thomas: LA issues: Communications mechanism to rebut anyone on the Board.

Sairus: S/M Practices And Blood at Gatherings. Vote: 22

-concerns regarding safety, liability, and general sanitary practices.

-extreme practices banned.

-follow-up with workshop leaders, about lack of mention of blood.

Gregg: Outreach, collaboration with other organization, marketing, bringing in a “critical mass” of men. Vote: 12

Gregg: Fund Raising Activities Vote: 10

David: Content Strategy of the website—combining all technology related to communications.
Referred to the Board of Directors.

Robert: Accountability of LEC-LA money for financial assistance, and moving FA money to the FA account. Make a general policy for LECs. Vote: 20

Milo: How do LECs make decisions? *Referred to the Board of Directors*

Schedule Changes:

Bylaws Continuation-10:00 AM, Sunday; Plenary Opens 11:30-1:00 PM, Sunday.

Board of Directors Meeting Occurs Tonight.

Special Executive Session called, will occur at the conclusion of the Board Meeting.

Break Called: Meeting Reconvenes 5:28 PM

Blood and Open Wounds at S/M Workshops (Sairus Patel)

Non-medical activities that intentionally, or have a reasonable likelihood to draw blood, are not allowed at CMG Events or Gatherings. Original tally: Y-15; N-6; A-3; Jim blocks. Jim wants to eliminate “non-medical.” Vote: Y-1; 15-N; 7-A. Jim removes his block. The proposal passes, as originally presented (CMG Operating Procedure-For PCs and LECs).

Considerable time was taken, to fully evaluate this proposal. Full discussion text is available, upon request, from the Secretary.

Summary:

Sairus spoke with several attendees of a beginner’s S/M workshop, which was offered at the 71st (Fall, 2011) CMG. Though he wasn’t an attendee of this workshop, he questioned the Planners of the Gathering about one part about the workshop—at one point, a facilitator was demonstrating a technique which utilized a leather strap with studs. As the strap was drawn across the body of another man the impact of the flogging caused an open wound, and blood fell freely from the body of the man being flogged.

Sairus is concerned, not only of the safety and hygiene issues, but of the implications this might create, for future CMG S/M workshops. In addition, Sairus is appalled that the Planners did nothing to stop the workshop from proceeding, and no mention of flogging or the possibility of bleeding, was mentioned in the workshop description in the Program Booklet. He brings this matter to the Members, as a participant with a soulful intent, and not as someone wanting to censor or harm the planning process. Sairus proposed to completely ban any workshop that subjected a participant to flogging or other activities which might cause bleeding to occur.

Mike thanked Sairus for his honest opinion, and then opened the discussion to the Members.

Although some of the men present at the meeting had attended the workshop Sairus referred to, nearly all told the Members that flogging was introduced by the facilitator, and he accidentally applied too much force when the incident occurred. Moreover, the man who was flogged was the partner of the presenter, and was someone familiar with S/M techniques. These witnesses told the Members that the man being flogged was OK after the flogging, and the blood was quickly cleaned up. The workshop facilitator apparently apologized for the error, to the attendees during the workshop. There was a general agreement amongst the Members that the Planners really could not have changed anything, since this was an accident, and thus, was unplanned and not intentional.

Other Members agreed that S/M, and/or flogging workshops, should be banned at CMG workshops. The proponents of this position argued that holding such activities could have consequences, such as lawsuits, insurance conundrums, or being turned away by sensitive camp leaders.

Another issue that was heard was the concern that AIDS prevention workshops, which might take blood samples from participants, for disease screening, would be affected, if all activities which involved blood to flow freely were banned. A compromise was agreed to, and the proposal was presented as an Operating Procedure.

Mike paused the meeting, and thanks the ABM Planners for the gift bags, which contain San Francisco gay-themed souvenirs. These bags are given to each of the Members at the meeting.

The Saturday Session of the 2012 ABM adjourned 7:06 PM.

Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012

CMG Annual Meeting Reconvened 10:00 AM

Mike provided the order of business:

Revision of CMG ByLaws

Reconvene the Board Meeting, with this agenda:

- New Items to attach to the Board Budget for 2012
- Authorization of Surveys
- Policy of Enotify Message
- Regional Outreach Reps, and Youth Reps.
- LEC Reps Committee
- From the floor items (Brief).

Bylaws Revision & Discussion

The Secretary will submit all revisions and amendments that are presented, to Dave Clark, who is absent (Dave arrived during the latter part of this session).

Frank: "Member" needs to refer to one body (to be determined later).

Article 3 section 1: Gatherings: Amend first paragraph, second sentence:

A Planning Committee ("PC") shall plan each Gathering, and shall report to the Board of Directors."

David S.:

Revise CMG PC allocation; if no allocation is designated, the Board Treasurer shall determine the allocations. (this is actually a written Operating Procedure and not a ByLaw).

Article 7, Section 2: Checks and notes--delete "review" and replace with "supervision."

Article 13, Section 2a—replace the paragraph with this:

If the Applicant's Term of Service was not met through work on a Planning Committee (PC) or on an Local Events Committee (LEC), he must have attended a total of five Circles of Concern or Plenaries (held at Gatherings), five January Business Meetings, five CMG Board of Directors Meetings, or any combination of these, to qualify for Membership.

P. 7 (red) section 7, delete "President," and replace with "Officers."

Article 12, Section 1--Delete "not":

"...entitled to share in the distribution of, and shall receive, any of the..."

Mohabee:

Article 6, Section 1: delete "and", and replace with "an":

"...to constitute an Executive Committee..."

Throughout the document: "PCs" and "LECs" instead of "PC's" and "LEC's".

Ben-Andy:

Article 4, Section 10--Regular meetings—each of the meetings [delete "will" and replace with] "may." This is the corrected statement: "...other regular Board Meetings may take place at each of the three Gatherings,..."

P. 10 Article 5, Section 1(and elsewhere in the ByLaws): replace "Main Officers" with "Executive Officers"

"The four Executive Officers of the corporation shall be..."

Article 4, Section 1 "general membership" changes to "Executive Officers"

"The Board of Directors shall consist of four Executive Officers, and one..." and

"Each Executive Officer shall..."

Article 3, Section 2—Add this paragraph:

"Each LEC shall hold annual elections for LEC leadership roles, including chairman, secretary, Board Rep., treasurer, etc. This election will be held prior to April 31, of each year, at a regular LEC meeting."

Page 7 (red), Section 6 Delete "general officers," and replace with "executive officers":

"The four Executive Officers of the Board of Directors will be elected by the Membership at the Annual Meeting."

Dave: Section 53-10, members must be defined clearly.

P. 17 (red) qualifications of members P. 19 (red), is from corporations code. Amendments to Articles of Incorporation. How to vote on the amending process?

P. 16 (red) indicates that the Members can revise and approve the revision.

Proposal: Approve the revisions, except for definitions of "members."

Thomas moves, Ed W. seconds 22Y; 0N; 0A—unanimous approval

Announcements: 1:00 lunch; 1:30 Board Meeting; 2:30 resume Plenary.

LEC Financial Assistance (Robert Burnham)

Any funds collected for a specific publicly-stated purpose, including Financial Assistance, by an LEC or PC, must be used for that purpose within a 12-month period. If any funds remain after 12 months, the Executive Committee shall determine the purpose of the money, and will then allocate it accordingly. 21-Y; 0-N; 1-A Passes (LEC Operating Procedure)

Discussion:

Robert is concerned that LEC-LA has not sent funds for Financial assistance, to the Development Director, for Spring Financial Assistance.

Joe: Money raised for Financial Aid is deposited in FA account within 90 days, and a request may be made 30 days prior to the transfer date. Frank: charities must express the percentage of the collected funds which go out for specific purposes. Dave C: the budget and income figures must be reviewed by the CMG Treasurer. Joe: FA policy is that the PC goes to the Development Director, and requests its funds. Milo: is concerned about not specifying and making a general donation for a PC. Joe: a percentage needs to be stated. David S: restates the proposal. Drew: what happens to the money after the 12 months?

Diversity (Steve Iberra)

Background: N. CA PC's have had a diversity person. Steve suggests that diversity be explored statewide.

Proposal: Support for a diversity congress at PCs—LECs will be presented with materials for diversity. The Outreach Director will help create this movement. Adopted unanimously, by acclamation. Steve's program might include "congresses" much like the LEC congresses, to discuss this further. No further proposal—Steve will spearhead this.

Transparency Definition, For The CMG (Jim Ruboyianes)

Discussion (No action taken)

Instigated by Barry Schoenfeld, what is "transparency" in CMG business or in meetings, etc.? What does "transparency" mean? How to respond to bad-willed "attack" to the Board regarding transparency. It's part of our truth, and part of our total value—not the entire story. Transparency is not an "absolute value". We have as much transparency as is needed, and not all of our business is necessarily "transparent." Mike says the transparency will never be "enough" for an ungenerous perpetrator. Milo: What do the members think is "not transparent enough?" Milo thinks we're really there. David S: There are opportunities to be more so transparent in our purposes. Ben-Andy: At the ABM's, a person brings forth items for an agenda to the meeting; we could "beat ourselves up" about timing and agenda. Mike: we're essentially a tribal community, and this has different values for transparency than a more typical meeting format.

Communications System—David Senk

(Discussion—No Action Taken)

David says that the software chosen for networking has a great impact on the CMG and its purposes. David isn't aware of many things: how this system was chosen, and who is taking this on. The piece that is missing is a set of requirements for a system, which might need to be shared with others interested in making decisions about software.

Ben-Andy: different systems are being considered. James, Lee, and B-A are on the committee to determine which system will be used. B-A had intense training on the system. Red flags came up, and more research is needed. B-A will likely make the final decision. Mike: a process is needed, for informing the Members or others with expertise about the selection process. An enormous amount of time has been spent already, and no prediction of further time is forthcoming. A contract has been signed, with Avectra, but it can be rescinded. Alternatively, we can sign an annual contract with this system. Mike made a quick decision, based upon the deadline for renewing the I-Contact system already in place. Avectra is not as good as it seemed a month ago. So we need a new system to replace I-Contact. Jason Wittman is also a stakeholder, since the 73rd CMG would be the first affected Gathering.

Mike asks David if a conversation with stakeholders could be made, after the ABM. David may join the software selection committee. Jim agrees completely with David. The last Board meeting approved the committee, but the requirements for individuals interested in joining the committee were not made at that time.

LEC Elections *withdrawn by Author*

Membership—A Definitive Definition

The CMG shall have two levels of membership: “General Membership,” defined as anyone who signs up to be on the CMG mailing list. A “Voting Member” is one who qualifies under CA Corporations Code 5056, regarding “membership,” and is covered by the CMG Bylaws, under article 13. Vote: 21Y; 0N; 2A Passes (This modifies the CMG ByLaws, and creates a General Operating Procedure)

Membership definitions (Bylaws revision). Ben-Andy presented this, and says that there’s confusion about the term “member” and its application to social networking and other purposes.

In a social networking system, anyone who signs into the system is considered a “member.” The ByLaws usage “Member” will be changed to “Voting Member.”

30 minutes is granted for further discussion about this matter.

Mike opened the general discussion for this matter:

Phil D: this might clear the distinction. Joe: we need to be clear about our terminology, with regard to membership. What constitutes Membership? This is a larger matter Norm: any man who has attended a Gathering. Frank: Norm’s term is fine. James B: “Constituent” might be a better term.

Dave: a software package does not dictate the corporation. Reads the corp. codes. Opposes collecting dues, and is favorable to issuing “membership” to one who has attended at least one Gathering. Jamie S. agrees with issuing “membership” to CMG attendees. Charley also agrees with this.

Phil D: The current vague definition is attractive; isn’t satisfied with “Voting Member” for Bylaws. Mike: acknowledges two-tier membership; is concerned about what that means. What are the privileges, and the relationship to the organization. David S: suggests two classes. Robert: two classes. Benefit 10 dollars per year, for announcements and newsletters. Gregg: A bigger sense of belonging and community. The organization is less owned by “them” but they are a part of a community.

Clay: not opposed to a thoughtful membership design, and we might need more time. Ben-Andy: This is a long-standing problem. Is opposed to making further work for the registrar.

Thomas: reads the bylaws concerning Membership. Ed Wahl: At a previous JBM, Andrew M.

wanted to have membership terms. Ed P: opposes collecting dues. A headache in tracking payment

of dues. Dues seem to be unnecessary. Inclusivity must be considered. Mohabee is unfavorable to using “Member” for anything other than the voting body. Steve: a \$10 membership could exclude potential men from being part of the community. Drew: we have men who are “members” in many different ways at this time. Members are men who are part of the community. Milo: can’t see any problem with including anyone who signs up for info as a “member.” Jim: concurs with Milo’s two-tier designation. To do otherwise would put a “cold blanket” on outreach. Joe: a current “Member” would be a “stakeholder” of the organization.

First Proposal: The CMG shall have two classes of Members. Any man who participates in any way with the CMG is a “member” of the community. A “Voting Member” is one who qualifies as stated, in the CMG Bylaws, for legal purposes. Voting: 15 Y; 5N; 3A; 3B- this does not pass.

Mike indicated that the alternative proposals can be presented at any time before the end of the meeting, by those who voted “no to block.” After the break, the three blockers presented a unified alternative proposal, which was considered by the Members.

8-minute break called. 12:45 reconvene.

Outreach (Gregg Cassin) *withdrawn by author.*

Fund Raising (Gregg Cassin) *withdrawn by author*

What is a Member (Ed Wahl) *withdrawn by author*

Goal: finish the meeting at 4:00 (applause heard). Any item on the agenda not heard by the Members at this meeting will be forwarded to the Board of Directors.

Success (Ed Wahl) *[Discussion, with recommendation noted]*

Ed passed around a two-page report about his topic. Ed says that having a definition could help the consistency of our efforts. He asked, “Do we prefer a ‘corporate’ type of decision-making, or shall we adopt a more humanistic approach to ‘success’?”

Ed Wahl recommends that this discussion be taken on by Planning Committees and LECs, for further discourse. There was a casual consensus to do this.

The Circle was opened for discussion:

Phil D: says the SD Planners consider a Gathering successful if it meets the goals of the Planners. Steve: this is an interesting question. Someone has to be the decision-maker. He has no solution at this time. Charley: The spirals of growth have been in the making. He recalled the early LTPC (LEC) planning process, which was generally non-hierarchical. Dave Clark: A non-profit has more difficulty of determining “success.” The quality of the product, rather than the quantity, is more important. Having several mediocre events is not better than four well-received events. James B: quality and quantity is not mutually exclusive. We can have measures of both, and this could be surveyed. Norman: we survived all these years, holding one to three Gatherings, and having five LECs. The success is based on how we make men’s lives better. Phil C: is impressed with the events that LEC-LA offers, but he is OK with just having four good intentioned events at LEC-BA. Joe: how the objectives are met, for events and Gatherings, can determine the success. Milo: there are several levels. A small turnout with good reviews, is as good as an event that has many attendees, and a mediocre review. Mike: how the men got the purpose of the event sometimes measures success. Thomas: no metric can be assessed. Ban-Andy: we adapted, through struggle, and are surviving. Does the corn feed the tribe? The tribe is anyone. Gregg: it empowers the committees. Agrees with Joe. None of the Gatherings have disappointed him. Robert: the CMG offers much more than just a

Gathering. We have leadership, mentoring, understanding, inclusion, consensus, collaboration, trust. Chris: Started at the 61st CMG; the most important is the value of positive experience to the Gatherings and Local Events. Phil D: Discovered CMG three years ago. Has received more personal growth support through the CMG, than through any other organization.

CMG Blog (Ed Wahl)

Ed wants to create a blog regarding the Board, and allow a free forum, to attendees, from the Board and from members of the CMG. Thomas: there needs to be a formal forum. A blog might be better. Mike: this could be developed. Ed agrees to be editor. This could be a bridge.

Create a CMG Blog or Newsletter via the web, which is mostly one-way in nature. The topics will be varied, but this will be a Board-oriented blog to the public. The language is “user friendly”. Vote: 21Yes; 0N; 1A passed by acclamation. (General Operating Procedures)

Discussion Notes:

Dave: thinks this could be a message medium for the “President’s Welcome.” Chris: wonders if there are already enough messages going out—how does this differ from “Binky’s List?” Charley: we had the newsletter, and he was editor, of the newsletters from the past. Gregg: thinks this could be a forum for artistic expression. Steve I; how could we not want more communications? We can gather much support through blogs, and reach men from many different corners. Jim: look at what we want to communicate, and what we’re not communicating. There might be another medium that could be used. Ed P: this could take one of several forms.

What is a “Gathering?” *Referred to the Board by the author.*

Content Technology (David Senk)

David was unable present this, and Steve Ibarra did this in his absence. Steve read the proposal. This was referred to the Board for further review.

The 2013 ABM

Jan. 19 & 20, This ABM will be planned by LEC-SD, and held in San Diego.

Closing Statement

Mike reads the “vision” document, which promises a different approach to CMG leadership. The CMG Mission statement will be changed to reflect the new vision. Formation of a steering committee, to oversee this process. The SC will meet at all 2012 Gatherings, and will report to the Board. Mike invites the Members to participate with this process.

Dave: Could the vision include “improving communications and transparency?”

Mike: New communications processes will be explored to serve our mission. Outreach will be important, now that we have an Outreach Director, who will facilitate and serve this function.

Meeting adjourned 3:56 PM