

CMG Board of Directors Meeting
May 28, 2016
Pathfinder Ranch

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Board Members (*14 Voting, 1 Non-voting*)

Frank Rothacker, 86th CMG; Mohabee Serrano, Secretary; Norman Skonovd, LEC-Sacramento; Joe Wagenhofer, Development Director; Ben-Andy Hein, Treasurer; Blaid Peisinger, Arts and Activities Director; Charlie Malarkey, LEC-BA; Lee Usher, Tech Director; Jim Ruboyianes, Webmaster; Cat Walker, Archivist; Michael Varnen, 87th CMG; Monzo, LEC-SD; Matthew Sunderland, President; Jamie Simmons, Vice-President; Vic Fusilero, 85th CMG Board Rep. (substitute).

Visitors

Milo Shapiro, Steve Ibarra, Ernie Elliott, Traye Turner

Elders Present

Bert Cassan, Joe Wagenhofer, Jim Ruboyianes

Absent Board Members

Drew Blanchar, Communications Director; Clay Kilgore, Registrar, Jeffrey Rykhus, LEC-LA

Meeting brought to order: 8:08 AM

Old Business and Reports

Secretary's Report (Mohabee Serrano)

Meeting Minutes of the last CMG Board Meeting (Jan. 17, 2016) are approved as written.

ABM Meeting Minutes, Jan. 16 & 17, 2016; approved with two abstentions, for the amended version. The Board's approval facilitates the actions of the meeting only. The Members approve the minutes as amended, in January, 2017.

President's Report (Matthew)

-Elder's Circle Report

Matthew reported that two Elder's Circle meetings were held since the AMM. The Elder's Circle can propose and select new members, with input from the Executive Committee. This recommendation is approved by informal consensus. An Elder's Circle meeting will occur at least once a year, to form an annual overview for the Elders. Joe says that the recent Elder's meetings produced a decision to induct at least one new elder at each Gathering. Jim says a pool of men were selected, out of which a new Elder will be chosen to join the Elder's Circle. Matthew thinks that the beginning of a Gathering is the best time to appoint a new Elder. Lee suggests that the induction ceremony and the selection process become clearer for newcomers to the CMG. Further discussion was heard, concerning when the induction is to occur, at future Gatherings. Matthew encouraged the Elders and Planners to consider the beginning, and not the ending of a Gathering, to introduce the newly-selected Elder, during future Gatherings.

Vice-President's Report (Jamie)

Insurance renewals for 2016 are now complete. The CMG Board is covered (Directors and Officers) and the organization is protected with comprehensive liability and property damage policies.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements (Ben-Andy)

Ben-Andy presented the financial statement for the first quarter of 2016. He thinks that the organization is doing well, with the spending slightly less than expected at this time.

- The CMG insurance bills are combined, and have been paid. The bill was less expensive than expected.
- Bank charges and service fees were higher than planned, particularly for the LEC-Sacramento account. The LEC-SAC account balance fell below the minimum amount required to retain a “free” status for maintaining the account.
- LEC-Sacramento Bank Account is changed from a separate account to a combined account. The funds in Sacramento's account will be merged with the general funding in the Statewide account, and will be available to the LEC-Sac Committee, through the CMG Treasurer. There were no fees charged by the bank, for this change.

Board travel to the 2016 AMM was a little over budget. Other travel expenses noted were for a reimbursement made for travel last year.

Other matters the Board heard from its Treasurer:

- The 83rd CMG (Summer Gathering, 2015) was the “bread winner” for last year, according to the final figures from that Gathering, and compared to the income derived from each one of the other two 2015 Gatherings.
- The Financial Assistance account balance is not ready, but the Treasurer will submit this to the Secretary.
- LEC balances were not fully figured, in 2015, so the charge off for email costs was made just a few weeks ago. The amount debited from each LEC account is based on the year-end balances, and is figured upon the percentage of usage by each region in the state.
- The 85th CMG is doing well. The final figures will be provided to the Board at the next BOD meeting. B-A thinks that we'll likely cover the break-even point for this Gathering, and report a profit, as well.
- Advertising budget; Our Facebook account was upgraded, and paid for as a special promotion, to attract new younger members. The line item “Board Retreat” is a placeholder, which was figured by the former treasurer. There is no plan to hold a Board Retreat this year, so that money was transferred for the promotion of the Gatherings. Matthew encouraged the 85th Planners to promote the Spring Gathering, over budget.

Board Rep Reports

Spring, 2016 CMG (85th)--Vic Fusilaro, substitute for Larry Geller

Vic is substitute for Larry; 143 attendees, with 42 newcomers are at this Gathering. FB was selected to promote, via paid ads. Vic managed the paid page. Three FB accounts exist, with one that's being closed. Vic explained how he posted, using different news feeds, and categories. Huge kudos to Vic. Blaidd suggests that the PCs of future Gatherings post FB feeds similar to the 85th CMG. Jim encourages sensitivity to transgendered men (F to M), in this kind of promotion, to welcome them to the CMG.

Summer, 2016 CMG (86th)--Frank Rothacker

A Genderqueer gathering was a promotional event for the 86th CMG. Frank thinks it will help bring transgendered men to the Gathering.

Frank says some of the original Planners resigned; there are now four men, who are capable of planning the Gathering. More Planners are requested to join this Committee. JoJo Rodrigues will be encouraged to reunite with the 86th Planning Committee. Trey suggests that the committee find men to be champions for different volunteer opportunities. Joe is requested to help with housing and registration, and accepts. Jim suggests that this Planning Committee could meet via teleconference.

Fall, 2016 CMG (87th)--Michael Varnen

Michael answered the call from Matthew, and he is the selected Board Rep.. Theme: Shining Moments. A sample card was passed around. Fall dates: Nov. 18-21. A contract with Camp Stevens, in Julian, is in the works. Confirmation from the Treasurer is needed. Michael, Monzo, and Ernie are the current Planners for the 87th CMG.

Fall, 2015 Post-Planning Note:

Concern was shared about Tony Clark. Matthew thinks we need to give love out to him, for his efforts last year. Tony took on a number of projects related to the 2015 Fall Gathering, executed the duties well, but apparently he burned out, after the Gathering ended. We love you, Tony!

CMG Marketing and Outreach (Traye Turner)

Traye addressed Marketing and Outreach. He put together a plan, and wants input from others. Matthew thinks the future is now. Ben-Andy says he can't authorize an additional line in the budget for marketing, since the Members authorize the Statewide budget. Traye is praised for the plan.

Proposal:

Move money, from the 2016 Statewide Budget. Move funds from Outreach, \$500, and Board Leadership Training, \$500—to be re-allocated towards the summer Gathering promotion. Traye will work with Vic, to set up Facebook, and to promote in other ways.

Discussion:

Joe thinks that we are willing to go over the budget, while Jim supports Michael's objection. Cat thinks we need to allocate money for 2016 advertizing, and then budget more money next year for all Gatherings. Charlie thinks that the volunteering aspect of the CMG's mission needs to be considered, for this to serve as a teaching and mentoring tool. Vic has no figures to share, but he thinks that the FB paid promotion was successful. He explained the FB "boosted posts" program to the Board. He will prepare a detailed report for the next Board meeting. Vic thinks the promotion effort has attracted men who didn't know about the CMG and its Gatherings.

An amendment is presented, and approved: The CMG Board Of Directors accepts the fact that the budget for further promotions may exceed the set limit, for 2016. We accept to offer no more than \$3,000.00 for the coming Gatherings (Summer and Fall), of 2016.

Vote: 13Y; 0N; 2A *This proposal, as amended, passes.*

Selected LEC Reports

LEC-BA: 8 men are on the committee, and several events are planned for the late Spring and Summer months.

LEC-Sac: A booth at Sacramento Pride will promote the CMG and the local events. The annual Raft Trip in August will occur, and will be announced in the near future.

LEC-LA: The CMG will not be at LA Music and Pride Festival. Booth applications required staffing of booth up to 33 hours, and there were no clear instructions about the terms, to booth applicants.

LEC-DC: Regular monthly events still occurring. Three members are on the committee, and a search is underway, for additional committee members.

LEC-SD: Milo says the CMG is registered for the San Diego Pride parade and booth, in July. LEC-SD seeks men to help promote the CMG Fall Gathering and LEC-SD, in the parade, and in the booth.

New LEC Applications:

An unidentified man wants information to put together an LEC in Orange County. Matthew will gather more info for a later report.

Surveys and Payments for LEC events:

Milo suggests using JotForm.com, for surveys and signing up volunteers. Paypal is now possible to collect fees for LEC events, according to Milo.

Selected Board Officer Reports

Registrar's Report (Mohabee read Clay's message which was sent to the Board)

Discussion about the Registrar's Report:

-Blaidd suggests that first-timers need to understand the buddy program. He recommends that the first-timers be opt-out, as the default choice for the buddy program.

-The registration process for workshops needs to be simpler. Too many options are provided, and it's confusing.

-Matthew thinks the tech committee needs to meet together. Tech changes can be managed directly—check with Lee. Clay is acknowledged for making the registrar's duties seem “easy.” His work is greatly appreciated.

Archivist (Cat Walker)

Cat Walker has finished organizing the physical archives and will begin working on the electronic archives.

Tech Director (Lee Usher)

-Lee renewed the CMG relationship with Giant Rabbit. He and GR will correct the error with first-time registrations. Lee will collaborate with GR and will attend to anyone with complaints. Lee sent out a request for our specific requirements, for registration, and to identify current problems. Three solutions are now under consideration, and one of these will be tested in the near future.

Follow-up to Items from 2016 ABM

Mentoring Committee (Lee Usher)

No new news on Mentoring; Lee will follow-up during a later meeting. A discussion was heard about the Mentoring program. Steve says he's a mentor; he breathes his experience into the new.

Planned Giving and Retirement-update (Joe Wagenhofer)

=An email will be sent out, to promote the PG program (as well as car donations and Amazon Smile), with an emphasis on wills.

-Retirement workshop program: Joe is working on presenting workshops on retirement, Financial planning, and will making, at future Gatherings. Matthew suggests promoting Amazon Smile via the Gathering program booklets.

New Business

Document Management System for CMG Board of Directors (Frank Rothacker)

Frank wants to find a way to share information collaboratively and efficiently. Men are scattered across the state, and there's no way to easily focus on tasks. Collaborative software is in use by the Summer Gathering. Frank is concerned that we don't have an inventory of our current software for this purpose.

History

Over the past four or five years, we've been using several different methods to collaborate via the internet. Some of the document management software was ordered via personal free accounts, and other software has been ordered as paid software properly licensed for CMG use, and paid by its treasury.

The personal software is difficult to assess, since the men who initiated the programs are no longer Planners, or they moved on, and took the software with them, or left, without notifying the current Planners about transferring passwords and the license to the succeeding Planning Committee.

There is active known software licensed to the CMG. It is available, via BaseCamp. Frank administers this program, and troubleshoots it, when problems come up. There is also a known Google Docs shared file program, which is accessible to the BOD, via the Secretary or the President. This software allows collaborative file sharing, and has a limited collaborative “real time” sharing facility.

Proposal:

The CMG Tech Director will take inventory of our current collaborative software, and will report his findings to a future Board Meeting—Lee Usher seconds. Vote: 11Y; 0N, 0A.

Next CMG Board Meetings

Teleconferences:

A July teleconference will be announced to the Board.

Gatherings:

Summer, 2016, Camp Newman (Sept. 3)

Fall, 2016, Camp Stevens (Nov. 19)

Adjournment 10:05 AM