

## **California Men's Gatherings Annual Business Meeting**

February 5 & 6, 2011

Plummer Park, West Hollywood, CA

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### **Summary of the Meeting**

#### ***Bylaws-3 Items:***

- Change the Annual Member's Meeting Designation
- Add the Revised Mission Statement (2010)
- Form a Special Committee to revise the Bylaws, in 2011. A list of topics for the Committee to consider was heard.

#### ***Operating Procedures-- 9 Items***

- CMG PC Percentage to Board--passed, as amended.
- PC Excess Funds--passed as amended.
- CMG Membership Directory--passed as presented.
- Web-based Document Management and Storage--passed as presented.
- Limited Gathering Photo Policy--adopted as amended. *Amends current photo policy.*
- ASL Signers for Deaf Attendees--passed as amended.
- Copyright Laws--passed as presented.
- LEC Public Identification--passed as presented.
- Board Communications--passed as presented.

#### ***This Item Was Defeated:***

- Change "Gatherings" to "Retreats."

#### ***This Item Was Withdrawn By Its Author:***

- CMG World

#### ***These 4 Items Were Referred to the Board of Directors:***

- Hiring an Executive Director
- Making the CMG "Couples Friendly"
- Add a new Board Officer: Community Involvement Director
- Medical Marijuana Policy

#### ***Executive Officer Elections:***

President: Mike Fahy

Vice-President: Ben-Andy Hein

Treasurer: Eduardo Perez

Secretary: Mohabee Serrano

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### **In Attendance**

#### **33 Members**

17 Members of the CMG Board of Directors:

Joe Wagenhofer, Mohabee Serrano, Ben-Andy Hein, Dave Clark, Lee Usher, Christopher Johnson, Jim Ruboyianes, Jamie Simmons, Rich Farshler, Zakkary Zoah, Ed Wahl, James Badberg, Milo Shapiro, Phillip Bouden, Robert Burnham, Steve Feichter, Bradley Gammon (substitute).

16 General Members of the CMG:

Bob Ames, Buzz Young, Michael McLees, Eduardo Perez, Mike Fahy, Jim Hoffman, Barry Schoenfeld, Jan Devine, Paul Pastor, Stuart (?), Phil Darby, Jason Wittman, Steve Jimenez, Frank Rothacker, Phil Canberry, Steve Shane

5 Visitors

Gary Bulbank, Bob Abrahms, Thomas B. Nicholson, Tony Salbino, Andy (?)

**Meeting Leadership:**

Facilitator: Joe Wagenhofer, President, CMG Board of Directors

Secretary: Mohabee Serrano, Secretary, CMG Board of Directors

Treasurer: Dave Clark, Treasurer, CMG Board of Directors

Timekeeper: Robert Burnham

Proctor: Ben-Andy Hein

Vibes: Christopher Johnson

**Meeting Called To Order: 10:00 AM** Milo Shapiro reads *Community*, a poem by Joel Perry. Barry Schoenfeld reads the CMG Mission Statement. Introductions are then heard from each attendee. Each attendee shared what the CMG is for him. Ed Wahl led *Home Is Where The Heart Is*, the CMG song

**Process Minutes (Joe)**

All items on the agenda will be heard, as time allows. We traditionally allow each man to speak and be heard.

**Leadership of the CMG**

*Review of Board Officers*

**President (Joe Wagenhofer)**

It's been an honor to serve the Board, and the community. I hope a difference has been made, during my term of Office. Joe says he's impressed by the quality and dedication of the work that's been done.

**Vice-President (Ben-Andy Hein)**

Ben-Andy says he had a good year, and that his service as VP has been fairly routine.

**Registrar:** been a smooth and seamless process during the past year. Registration of this meeting: 47 men signed up. Looking forward to serving in the coming year.

**Secretary (Mohabee Serrano)**

Mohabee has been busy during the past year, taking minutes of Board and Exec. Committee meetings, and serving the Bylaws committee. He revised the LEC Planner's Manual, which will be distributed to the Board, for examination and adoption.

**Archivist:** Mohabee says he brought the CMG Archive Roadshow to each of the three Gatherings, in 2010. He says he'll expand the Roadshow's size, to fill in larger spaces provided by the Planners in all three Gatherings.

**Treasurer (Dave Clark)**

Each Gathering and each LEC has its own treasury, and has responsibilities which include budgeting and management of its money.

2010 Board Expenses: D&O added to budget; I-Contact Email is over-budget; Special Projects (AIDS Walk Documentary Film) was withdrawn, and not used.

Revised 2011 Budget (late breaking changes): Lower price noted for I-Contact (\$500 vs. \$2547), D&O Insurance is also lower (\$750 vs. \$1,500).

Revenues: An increase was received, from the three Gatherings of 2010.

A new record which Dave has created shows amongst the many items, attendee record, and total Board profit.

Dave is termed out, and is thanked for three years of good service to the CMG.

***Director of Communications (James Badberg)***

James reduced costs for I-Contact, by consolidating mailing lists. 60K messages per month; 700K messages in the year. This is an important service, which helps promote the CMG.

***Webmaster Report (Jim Ruboyianes)***

Jim said he has been keeping up with these priorities:

-Website up and running at all times, and is current.

-Enotify send-out.

-Gathering Support. Currently, Jim is in contact with PCs.

Jim is planning on a transition out of the Webmaster position, by June. He will inform the CMG Board of Directors, and will start training an apprentice, by June.

***Technical Advisor (Lee Usher)***

Lee will share a proposal from the Membership Committee, for the ABM to consider.

***Arts Coordinator (Ed Wahl)***

Ed is involved with LECs, in planning art-related events and activities. He is involved with Kurt Wagner, for CMG Song permissions, and has also investigated copyright issues (proposal to be provided).

***Director of Development (Christopher Johnson)***

Fund-raising (silent auctions), gained FA support--68<sup>th</sup> CMG raised the highest amount in 2010. Served 100 men who requested Financial Assistance, in 2010. Christopher is stepping down from his Board position.

***70<sup>th</sup> CMG (Robert Burnham)***

Adjusted rates, in accordance with new camp costs. Upgrades to camp to be made. Theme: "Dare to Be Different."

***71<sup>st</sup> CMG (Bradley Gammon)***

Will occur at Camp Newman. Eclectic and powerful committee. Will present budget to Board. Two possible themes to be considered. 200+ men to be invited.

***72<sup>nd</sup> CMG (Philip Bouden)***

The PC just began to meet (Jan. 19 was the first meeting). Pathfinder Ranch will be the location.

***LEC-BA (Zakkary Zoah)***

470 men were served in 2010; small committee (some also serving the PC for the upcoming 71<sup>st</sup> Gathering); attracting new men in the spirit of "yes."

***LEC-SAC (Rich Farshler)***

Strong committee of six men; activities have been planned through Dec. 2011. I-Contact problems are now non-existent.

#### ***LEC-DC (Jamie Simmons)***

The LEC-DC has found a balance between social and self-help events; low cost rental spaces are suddenly elusive in P. S.; LEC-DC is sending notice to solicit new committee members.

#### ***LEC-LA (Steve Feichter)***

LEC-LA welcomes and empowers its activity directors; many wonderful events are offered. An emerging theatre event is in the works. The committee is fluid and working well together. Steve acknowledges the LEC-LA men for planning this meeting. Barry acknowledges LA Cares. Joe thanks Barry and Steve for their good work.

#### ***LEC-SD (Milo Shapiro)***

**Next meeting is in March. At least one main event per month is offered. “Mini-events” (those that the LEC-SD expects will get lesser turnout, require less prep, and may be less formally run) are being scheduled by this committee. A few plans include a poker game for the first eight that show, a moonlight hike where the hope is 10-12, etc.) The LEC-SD is determining what will produce a turn-out for events to make the more popular ones the “main events”. There might be several mini-events over the course of a given month and only one announcement for them all. Phil Darby is scheduled to be the communication point for the mini-events while Milo continues to send out the E-Notifies about the main events.**

#### ***AIDS Walk (Jim Hoffman)***

Statewide, 4 walks held, raised over \$10K, and threw parties to promote the walks. LA raised 7.5 K, which produced exposure for CMG, and was 13<sup>th</sup> highest raiser. Jim wants to see more participants than in 2010, this year. More details to come. Some publicity problems were noted.

### **CMG Board of Directors Election**

The Secretary read the CMG Bylaws concerning the duties of each elected office.

#### ***Nomination Notes***

##### **President**

Joe: It was beneficial to keep his own opinions out of the discussion--e.g. A neutral person. A great love to the CMG is needed, to serve as President.

*Nominee* Mike Fahy (accepted)

Mike has personal reasons for running, which include his deepest joys, that are in relations with other people, and that other people's lives are better with his efforts, and this will provide a means of getting to this goal. This will be a means of expressing love, fulfillment, becoming more fully alive, to grow, and to have many growth possibilities. This is a form of work that will bring about a connection with others, and the world.

Job perspective: this role is different than one's personal views--the goal is to come to a decision in a short time. Listening, forming a space for all to be heard, and encouraging listening is a role. It will be an enormous honor.

The candidate is asked to leave the room, for discussion and the vote.

Mile returns to the room, and is welcomed as the new President.

##### **Vice-President**

B\_A says that he served the Exec. Board faithfully, doing the proscribed duties. It's generally not a hard job, but it's challenging at times.

**Nominees:**

Robert Burnham (accepts), Ben-Andy (accepts), and Buzz Young (accepts). Robert withdraws upon Buzz's self-nomination.

**Candidate's Notes:**

Ben-Andy Hein I have enjoyed the services on the Exec. Committee, the past two years. A rare joy working with Joe, Dave, and Mohabee. The CMG is a rare form of living, it helps me be a better person, and to grow further. BA liked the "old" system better, with two of four being elected "at large." In the many years, the CMG has always elected the best men with the best skills. Wants to set-up an online Planners Manual. Question: what will BA do, to help the men in N. CA. grow and thrive? BA: We've seen things grow and change over the years. We have a number of trends in the works. One man can make a difference; Paul Steele took the helm of LEC-LA years ago, and began the momentum of the Los Angeles men holding events. Likewise, Ben-Andy will support the efforts of the LECs in N. CA.

Buzz Young wants to be a part of the BOD. He has a passion for the CMG. Is strong, healthy, and vibrant and wants to serve as VP.

Candidates Buzz Young and Ben-Andy Hein leave the room, for the vote.

Results of the Vote: Ben-Andy will return to the Board, to serve as Vice-President.

**Treasurer**

Dave says his duties include overseeing the treasuries of all PCs and LECs, which includes the budgets of each committee, filing the tax and financial reports to the State, and other duties. He works closely with the other officers of the Exec. Committee. Presenting financial info to the Members and the Board is the Treasurer's biggest duty.

**Nominees:**

Eduardo Perez (accepts); Bob Ames (declined);

Ed says he's an accountant by trade (34 years). In those years, 20 were spent in non-profit accounting. Ed wants to give back to his "family." The accountant is the heart of the business.

Dave Clark will be a good teacher. Ed thinks it will be a big pair of shoes to fill.

Ed left the room, for the vote. Confirmation vote: Unanimous approval of Ed Perez.

**Secretary**

Mohabee (D. Milton Markey) is the sole candidate. He says it's been a great year to work with Joe, Ben-Andy, and Dave, as well as the other officers and representatives on the CMG Board of Directors. He's looking forward to serving the CMG as Secretary. This is Mohabee's third term as Secretary for the CMG Board of Directors. He says that the work has become much more challenging, over the years, now that there are three Gatherings and five LEC's, and a active, responsible Board of Directors.

Mohabee left the room, for confirmation and election. Upon his return to the room, he was told he was re-elected, to serve his second year as Secretary.

**Old Business**

**Approve revised CMG ByLaws (Joe)**

Process: each person with a possible bylaw change is invited to provide proposals.

*Change the Annual Member's Meeting Designation Tally: 22Y, 1N, 0A, 0 B-adopted*

ABM vs. JBM needs to be changed. Update to “Annual Member’s Meeting.” (13.2) is changed to: “...will be held, preferably, by the end of February, and no later than March 30.” All persons on the CMG notification list will be notified within 30 days of the Annual Member’s Meeting. Officer terms will be extended, if the ABM occurs later than the second weekend of January (Ben-Andy moves, Ed Wahl seconds).

***Add the Revised Mission Statement (2010) Tally: 17Y, 4N, 0B, 0A-adopted***

Revise bylaws to reflect Mission Statement, as agreed to in May, 2010. Replace the entire section with the Mission Statement (delete Core Values). Amend the third paragraph of the Mission Statement, deleting ellipses, and replace ellipses with commas, (Jim moves, and Robert seconds)

***Change the Board Meeting Notice (referred to ByLaws Committee)***

Notice of Board Meeting (eliminate the entire first sentence)

Barry: Regular meetings and special meetings are already covered in definition. (Barry moves, no second). *This matter is referred to the Special Committee (see below).*

***Form a Special Committee to revise the Bylaws Tally: 21Y, 1 N, 0B, 0A--approved.***

Proposal (Robert): the CMG will form a committee, headed by Dave Clark, to revise the Bylaws. When the committee has a rough draft ready, the CMG Board of Directors will ratify it, and upon Board approval, the document will be sent to the 2012 ABM for final approval.

Jim suggests that we form a committee to re-write the bylaws, to reflect how we actually conduct business. Ben-Andy, Mohabee, Jason, and Frank will help Dave rewrite the ByLaws. Jim offers to set up an electronic blog, so that the committee members can communicate effectively online.

***Topics for the Committee to Consider:***

- What is Consensus? (definition of such)
- Subordinate Officer terms, (discussion of term limits and voting powers). Sec. 6-President; Sec. 7-Vice President powers and duties.
- Delete “telegraph” from meeting notice. Universal Replacement: use “whatever notification method is in use at the time the meeting notice is made.”
- Delete and revise the incorrect “Men’s Gathering’s” throughout the ByLaws, and check for other punctuation and spelling errors.
- Board Reps from Committees (Art. 3-ss6).
- Highlight the changes, for history of this document for the CMG Archive.

***A short break was called for, and the meeting rejoined fifteen minutes later.***

***Visioning Session***

***Process Minutes:***

The first part of the Visioning Session is to create an agenda, using a free-form approach--each man with a concern was invited to share it in the form of a proposal. The proctor writes the title of each proposal for consideration. Each item on the list was straw-pollled to determine its importance, and thus, its placement in the agenda. Items marked “NW” (Not Written), had no written document at the time of the straw polls.

Medical Marijuana Policy (Steve)

Reimbursement of Sign Language interpreters Robert B.--8

Combined motion: Raise the Board Contributions for the SP and SU Gatherings to 15%-Jason--23

CMG Copyright Law Compliance-Ed Wahl--13

Membership Directory Proposal--Lee--19

Making CMG “Couples Friendly”--Christopher (NW)--12 (re-voted 7)

Director of Community Involvement--Jim Hoffman (NW)--9

Develop Limited Photo Policy, at Gathering Pool Parties--Jim R. (NW)--12 (revoted 12)

Document And Content Management Facility Jim R. (NW)--17

Change “Gatherings” to “Retreats”--Milo (NW)--16

Eliminate “Database Manager” from the Board officer list. Ben-Andy (NW)--2

Develop a paid Exec. Director for the CMG--Jim R (NW)--20

### ***Discussion Process Minutes***

A straw poll is taken, to close the list to any more items. For discussion purposes, each item will be considered by allowing each attendee to speak, and the President shall choose the beginning person, and the direction in which the circle will be heard. Each speaker will get 2 minutes to comment, but an extension may be granted. All proposals are provided in writing, and each one is handed to the Secretary for record-keeping, after a vote is taken.

### **Gathering Percentage of Profit Returned to the Board, and Excess Funds Designation**

(Jason, presenter)

Raise the percentage a Gathering Planning Committee returns to the Board, from 10% to 15%. Allow excess funds, accounted for after all debts and obligations are paid, to be “rolled over” to the next same-season Gathering’s account.

*Motion Failed--10Y; 10N; 3B; 3A. Those Blocking must file an alternative proposal, which are to be heard Sunday morning.*

### ***Discussion Notes:***

Jason read the written proposal to the Members, along with the supporting document, which explained the history that led to this proposal.

Dave: This was from a follow-up that Dave presented, in which he recommended raising the Board fee from 10% to 15%, for each Gathering. After discussion with the three Gatherings, Dave found that the Fall Gatherings at Pathfinder might be limited to a lesser amount, due to a loan for a hot tub, and requirements of Pathfinder Ranch. The other two Gatherings are more able to raise their contribution percentages. Frank is concerned by the use of “three separate Gatherings” and the use of money, in other words shall the money be shared amongst Gatherings? Christopher thinks returning the seed money to the Board is the procedure, and this allows the Board to have control over a PC’s account. Christopher is concerned about the amount in each PC’s bank. He is opposed to the proposal as is written. Jason: In practice, for LA, 2/3 of the committee members come back to plan the next season’s Gathering, so it’s a continuous process. There needs to be some money in the bank, for upstart costs. Robert favors having money sit in a rotating account. The Board needs the 15% to cover its additional services. Phillip is glad that the Fall Gatherings will stay at 10%. Camp costs at Pathfinder are fairly high. Steve questions about how the percentage is figured. Ben-Andy says Summer and Fall pay per attendee, while spring pays a flat fee. Virsil says that there may be ways the Planners can cut costs. Milo says he questions the fees, and makes an amendment to allow reconsideration, if the Fall Gathering isn’t held at Pathfinder, which is accepted. Barry: thinks it’s good to have a required percentage being returned to the Board. The Board has a right to approve certain

sections, or not, of a budget. Jim H. is in favor of this measure. Ed P.: FA money has to be used for FA, and can't be spent in other ways. Ed favors using excess funds for FA. Dave Clark: The CMG has reserves of about \$80,000. We did break even, and have a reserve, at the end of 2010. Dave favors this proposal, because it both helps the Board, and it won't wipe out excess funds, according the past history of the Gathering bank balances. Dave says the 15% is doable, and will produce excess funds.

Bob: A compromise could be offered, so that the Fall might pay less, due to budgetary concerns. Ed P: Fall is a smaller gathering, and hot tub issues make it difficult to make additional revenue; hence, the smaller amount. Jim R.: "morale" issue might be a matter of concern to the "populace," in the future. Milo: SD might need to raise rates, to make 15%. Zak suggests that Dave and Jordan talk (on the phone) during the break, to find a solution to the misunderstandings about Jordan's viewpoint. Phil D. suggests a method of making the percentage variable, with approval by the Board. Steve suggests a "per capita" amount, to making a balance amongst the PCs. Robert B: In favor of 15% for each Gathering. Ed W: 10% is the Minimum percentage, and is concerned about going under this. Lee echoes what has been said. Spring Gathering's camp fees may be OK, but what about men who are financially unable to afford a Gathering. Christopher: opposed to 15%, and thinks the entire excess which a Gathering makes, needs to be returned to the Board.

The President, upon seeing that more time is needed, to hear the alternative proposals from those who "blocked" the vote, moved that the meeting be adjourned for the day. This was approved by consensus.

### ***Meeting Adjourned for Saturday 4:20 PM***

### **Sunday, Feb. 6, 2011**

Meeting called to order 10:05 AM, by Joe Wagenhofer; Joe introduced Mike Fahy, who presided over the meeting on Sunday, with Joe's assistance.

CMG Mission Statement is read by Robert Burnham; *Community Poem* (Joel Perry) is read by Barry Schoenfeld.

***Process Notes for Sunday:*** Each Member may speak about each item on the agenda, when his turn comes about. Each speaker is limited to one minute, but more time may be granted. The President will indicate who speaks first, and the direction in which each person's time for making a comment is determined.

### **CMG Budgetary Proposal (Ed Perez)**

All PCs will have 13% target funds allocated in their budgets, which will be returned to the CMG Board of Directors.

Y:24; N: 0; B:0; A:2 This proposal passes.

### ***Discussion Notes***

A computation of the last three year's average profit from Gatherings was presented, and passed around to each Member. This was presented towards the proposal that each Gathering contribute 13% of the profit from a Gathering, to cover the CMG Board's costs.

Barry suggests calling this money to the Board a "target." This was accepted as an amendment. Jamie asked for an explanation about how the percentage worked. Ben-Andy asks the usual



recipients of Board travel reimbursements to stand up. He explained that these people would be dependent on comps from PCs, and reimbursements for Board Reps to travel. Mike F. says that cutting the Board budget would likely cut out the “human resources.” The 13% target will not have a minimum, but PCs will have a target of 13%. Zak: 13% sounds fair and doable. Jan: sounds loose in concept. Milo: is OK with the 13% target. Rich: supports the 13%. SD’s hot tub is considered “above and beyond” the proposed target. Virsil: compromise it good. Dave makes a friendly amendment: each PC must budget 13% target profit to be returned to the Board-- amendment adopted. Frank: finds these fixed percentages to be unreasonable, or “revolting.” Christopher finds the fixed percentage to also be superfluous. Is disappointed that the members have been spending 3 hours discussing money. Doesn’t think everyone on the Board should be comped. “Where is the heart of this group?,” he asks. Tony thinks compromise is good. Lee thanks B-A for the “graphic” show. Lee says he doesn’t usually go to Gatherings in which he doesn’t need to attend. Ed W: offers to help SD planners raise funds for both the repayment of the hot tub, and for FA. Robert: perhaps a reallocation of travel funds could be considered. Do all board members need to attend a meeting? The PC in LA has often made over 15%, but not all has been returned to the Board. Phil: A lot of time is spent determining which bank account our money is in. There are ways we can handle cost containment, such as raising fees or cutting costs. Both the Board and PCs need to take a concerted look at how the CMG money can be used, under the circumstances. Phillip: Thinks SD can live with this target. Ben-Andy: contributions made via the registration forms, benefitted about 100 men, who requested financial assistance last year. Is grateful for the compromise.

#### **Excess Funds From Gatherings (Jason Wittman)**

##### ***Original Proposal:***

Each seasonal Planning Committee, after making their 13% contribution to the CMG Board of Directors, may determine what to do with the remaining excess income generated by their respective Gathering. Their choices are:

- (1) Earmark the entire funds for Financial Aid for the next Gathering of the same season.
- (2) Return it entirely to the Board.
- (3) Roll the funds over into the budget of the next PC of the same season. These funds will be spent only with the approval of the CMG Board Treasurer, and until the PC’s budget is approved. Any funds left over in FA must be rolled over to the next Gathering of the same season’s FA account.
- (4) The current PC can spend these funds with the CMG Board Treasurer’s approval, for any purchase over \$500. (*Secretarial Note: this amends the “Capital Purchases Procedure.”*)

Furthermore, any unspent funds in the Annual CMG Board Budget will roll over the the next Board Budget, as a contingency fund for unexpected expenses, beginning with the 2010 Board Budget.

*Tally: Y: 19 N:2 B:1; A: 3.* An alternative proposal was heard:

Zak: Wants to take this to committee, which will then resolve the “sticky” issues:

*Tally: 7-Y; 15-N 2-B; 2-A*

Blocked motion failed, the original proposal passes.

##### ***Discussion Notes***

Jason says there is often a need to make purchases, for the previous spring gathering, in order to have the items for the next spring gatherings. It seems wasteful, in that purchases of seasonal items could be made when the items are on sale. The unspent funds could be rolled over to the next seasonal PC, and that PC would need to have the rolled-over funds in its budget.

Ed W. is concerned about the disconnect between the 67<sup>th</sup> CMG and the 71<sup>st</sup> PC, which made for an unsmooth transition. Christopher: this would be a change in that instead of a PC turning in all funds to the Board, the committee could keep money to roll into a “phantom” PC. Frank: running the Gatherings has expenses all year around. There needs to be a way to make a smooth transition. Favors changing “board contribution”. Mohabee: is on the fence about this issue, and wants to hear more comments. Joe: *Amendment: Financial aid must be rolled over, as FA money only. The board treasurer can approve any expense that a PC wants to make, before the approval of the budget. The item(s) must be listed on the budget as usual. Amendment accepted.* Bob: this is based on a specific situation, and is not common. He sees value in keeping the current policy. There are administrative constraints that need to be considered. It is “all our money.” The next year’s committee may not need the excess funds, either. Buzz: is in favor of this, despite that it’s unnecessary, and is based upon poor communications within the past year. Jamie: it may be worth a try. Dave: (1)The Board Treasurer gets all the bank statements, from all PCs, so nothing goes out without notice; (2) A PC can do what it wants with its profits, and we need to assume that a PC will ordinarily be responsible. Ed P.: is on the same page as Joe. Doesn’t see a problem with allowing a PC asking for money, if the item is on the budget. Jim R.: overall is in favor. Jim suggests placing a cap on the money that’s rolled over. if we let Planners know what their options are. Barry: “our” money is administered by nine treasurers. Without a manual, there will always be unsmooth transitions. Thinks this matter needs further discussion. Richard: would like to see the funds returned to the Board only. Does not trust the next treasurers. Milo: PCs sometimes wonder, “can we buy something in two weeks, with the funds, and what to do with these funds, in such a short time.” Zak has a queasy feeling about this. Thinks that this a solution looking for a problem. Will support the proposal, though it may be unnecessary. Ben-Andy: in the past, spring PCs have spent the money wisely, and contributed to financial aid. *Amendment: the Board will get to roll-over its surplus, too. Amendment accepted.* Tom: thinks that continuity needs to be assured. Robert: The PCs generate all of the income, and there is a lack of trust, and lack of continuity. This is a favorable proposal. Jason: This wasn’t based on the transition, but was based on a logistics anomaly, in regards to purchases. Dave Clark seconds the motion.

### ***Meeting Continuity Note***

An agenda change was made for Sunday:

After voting occurred, on the matters related to returned funds to the Board, the ABM would adjourn, in order to reconvene the Board Meeting, to vote on a revised annual budget. The Board Meeting is then adjourned, and the ABM reconvenes. The ABM adjourned at 12:05 PM, and was reconvened 12:15 PM

The list of proposals was seen, and this was Mike’s observation: Any or all of the remaining proposals which are yet to be considered, may be referred to the CMG Board, for consideration at a future Board Meeting.

**Hire an Executive Director (Jim)**--referred to the Board of Directors.

### **Member Database (Lee)**

***Tally: Y-22; N-0; A-1 This proposal passes.***

A two-phase registration system will be offered to Gathering attendees. Phase 1 will include gathering info, while Phase 2 is to create the database.

Text of the Proposal:

The CMG shall develop a Membership Directory System. This will be installed in two phases:

1. An invitation to participate in the Directory will be a part of the registrations for the three seasonal Gatherings, beginning in 2011.
2. The info gleaned from the registrations will be used to build the Membership Directory, and this directory will be integrated into the CMG website.

### ***Discussion Notes***

Tom: wants to know “why?” Phil: What is the financial impact. Phillip: agrees with Lee’s proposal; Ben-Andy: we no longer have a database from each Gathering, so there’s no central place to find info about a Gathering attendee. Zak: who has access to the info? Jan is concerned about the continuous maintenance. Milo: photo file needs to be coordinated with this database. Barry: Protected info; opt-in some CMG private, for integrating a source that can “talk” to other databases, for personal purposes. Jim R.: Does not recommend designing our own software, but use commercially-made software that is available, and compatible with our needs. Jamie: agrees with limits that Barry suggests. Buzz: needs to have a database, to stay in contact with other men. Ed W.: likes the idea of this database. James: do we need a central depository? We need to look at long-term impact of this database. Jason: customer-base resource management systems could be adapted for this purpose. Robert: supports this; possibly could be used for social networking. Lee: Past resources designed by him were successful. He volunteers to develop such a system. Not opposed with open-source programming.

### **Web-based Document Management and Storage (Jim R.)**

***Tally: 24y; N-0; A-1 This proposal passes.***

There needs to be a space to store Board documents, such as meeting minutes, and the financial documents from PCs and LECs. There is a great need for this kind of facility. The Archivist needs such a facility, which allows security, and allows privileges to certain individuals. This would necessitate forming a committee, which includes the webmaster, archivist, and others from PCs and LECs. This committee would determine a specific content management facility, and the software and logistics.

### **Change “Gatherings” to “Retreats” (Milo)**

Proposal: The Board shall look up a word to re-designate the current Gatherings. *Tally of votes: 9Y; 11N; 5A--motion fails.*

#### **Discussion Notes:**

Based upon the queries he receives, Milo thinks that we need to make this change. Zak: likes the proposal. Ben-Andy: it’s a big deal, and agrees with Milo; Phil: doesn’t like “retreat”. Tom: also questions “retreat”, all events are “gatherings.” Amendment: we think further about this (not accepted). Jason: don’t change “gatherings.” Stuart isn’t a fan of “retreat,” either. Ed W. is troubled by “retreats.” Christopher isn’t a fan of “retreats.” May need to change other documents. Frank: “Gathering” means bringing people together. Mohabee: Favors keeping “Gatherings.” Joe favors calling all events “gatherings.” Bob: as an elder, has a natural resistance to relabeling everything. Buzz is sad that our identity is changing. Assassin games are not Gatherings. We need the differentiation. Jamie thinks “gathering” may confuse current events attendees. Ed P. agrees with Buzz. Virsil: “Gatherings” are our brand, and the planners of events can call it what it wants to. Jim R. thinks about evolution--“community” is what the CMG is about. Barry: Gatherings are not what we are about alone. More men attend events locally, than men attend Gatherings. Rich likes staying with what is. Jan: this isn’t an important issue, it’s pure semantics. Milo: local events won’t go away; we can have many kinds of Gatherings. This will allow events to be called “gatherings.”

**Make the CMG “Couples Friendly” (Christopher and Tony)**

*This matter is referred to the CMG Board of Directors.*

Observation: the CMG is mostly single men or men in open relationships. The presenters noted that there are some aspects of Gatherings which could be considered, to make the environment “safer” for couples, or individuals in a relationship.

Christopher suggests:

- good sleeping spaces for couples.
- solicit couples-oriented workshops.
- provide a special couples dinner table.
- provide LEC events that are couples-related.
- support appropriate behavior for attendees, in regards to meeting couples at Gatherings, or respect for individuals who are “not available” as single men.

*The Meeting adjourned for lunch 1:15 PM, then reconvened 2:03 PM.*

**Limited Gathering Photo Policy (Jim)**

A PC is strongly recommended to work with the designated Gathering photographer, to take pictures of participants in sensitive kinds of activities.

**Tally: 14Y; 7:n; 1-b; 2A This proposal fails.**

**Alternative Proposal** (*Tally (vote after the first blocked tally): 20Y; 1N; 1B; 2A*) *The alternative proposal passes.*

Planning Committees are recommended to designate a short, limited time, at sensitive public locations (such as the swimming pool), when the official Gathering Photographer may take pictures for the purpose of CMG publicity.

During these brief limited times, those attendees who do not desire to be in publicity photos, are invited to step aside, to allow the photographer to take pictures, then return to the activity, without concern of further photography.

**Discussion Notes:**

Jim posted several photos of the 68<sup>th</sup> Gathering, Koby, the designated photographer, was prohibited from taking pictures at the Gathering pool party at the 67<sup>th</sup> CMG. Jim says that the photos were of a representative event held during a Gathering, and thus could be made by “official” photographers of the gatherings. Jim seeks a unified photo policy for the designated photographer taking and posting photos of the pool parties at the Gatherings, and other locations with “sensitive activities.” Possible liabilities: men who are nude might be recognized by peers or employers. Jim thinks we need a policy that does not pander to personal self-homophobia of attendees.

Mike: does Jim want a separate policy for the pool parties? Mohabee reads the current photo policy to the Members. Jason: there are problems identifying attendees who might not want to have their photo taken and posted. Lee: Jason’s idea of separating those who are OK with photos from pool parties. Ed W.: there’s a possibility that this affects “safety” of a Gathering. Stuart: do we need photos of people in this context? Jason: this could be handled by PCs. Tom: is looking at both sides of this. Phil: PCs already have the ability to make a policy, and to implement appropriate picture taking scenarios. Phillip: how would this apply to San Diego (Fall Gatherings)? Ben-Andy: at the 64<sup>th</sup> Gathering, a staged photo was taken of pool party participants. David: set up “off limits” places at the pool, where no photography is acceptable. Zak is supportive of Jim’s proposal. Milo: have a designated time (PC determines) for pool party

photo sessions. Andrew: where is the trust of the photographers? Barry: Koby wants to represent the full spectrum of activities which occur at the Gatherings. He supports holding a special time. Dave: would not like to see a mandate from the Board. Jamie: creating a safe space is a greater need than our marketing needs. Buzz: Used to take photos at Gatherings, and misses doing this, after the current policy was passed. Sees that safety is more important than taking pictures. Bob: there are instances where photos taken of someone had negative circumstances. Joe: this needs to be decided by PCs. Mohabee remembers the “no photo policy” of the early Gatherings, and acknowledges the newer policy.

***Process Notes:***

A vote is called for, on the original proposal, which fails. One block is noted.

Buzz: is uncomfortable with the proposal. He is granted an hour to come up with an alternative proposal. 15 minutes later, an alternative is read by Milo, and this alternative proposal is adopted as written.

**Add a Board Officer: Community Involvement Director (Jim Hoffman)**

*Referred to the CMG Board of Directors, for specific considerations.*

Jim H. has been recruiting men for the CMG AIDS Walks, and he wants to encourage better participation this year. LA has a great number of attendees for its events, but few walked at the AIDS Walks. Jim likens these events to Gatherings. There is no web page for the AIDS Walks, or LA Cares. Jim thinks 50-100 men could walk for AIDS, or join other community-involved activities.

***Discussion Notes:***

Zak: is this a function of the Communications Director? Buzz: is in favor of holding other events, along with the AIDS Walk. Jim H.: the Board has an unoccupied position for Director of Outreach. Joe: the Board combined the position, and it's now a function of the Communications Director. Barry: we don't need a new Director, and we don't need a new board position. Zak: no new directors. Ben-Andy: make this a Volunteer position. Ted: this is something better addressed at the local level. Robert would be in favor of Jim H. being a volunteer to do the outreach. Lee: this needs to be a function under the Communications Director. Joe: doesn't think a new Director is needed. Bob: what is the responsibilities, financial aspects, etc. of this position. Buzz: Community outreach is an important matter for the CMG. Buzz thanks Jim for bringing this matter to our attention. We won't have this kind of outreach without the position being on the Board. Jamie is wary of adding another Board position, without knowing the responsibilities of the position. Dave: this might be best considered by the Board, to ferret out the details and job description. Ed P. agrees with Dave, since the budget is fairly tight at this time. Do we want to spend more time to find money for this kind of matter? Virsil: It's a tough decision--we're an educational organization, and how many times do we have an educational program for dealing with HIV education. Virsil says he could do this, and will offer this to the Board. Jim H.: It appears that we are taking on more and more community activities. This is the direction of the CMG. Jim approves that this be referred to the Board.

***A Hand Twinkle***

A brief Break was called, to thank the servers of refreshments and meals for this meeting. Barry, Dave, Joel, Reynold, and Virsil are twinkled.

**ASL Signers for Deaf Attendees (Robert Burnham)**

The CMG strongly encourages PCs to have an ASL interpreter at Gatherings.

*Tally: 19Y; 1N; 0B; 1A--Approved.*

Discussion Notes:

Robert proposed that the Board reimburse a PC, for hiring an ASL signer for deaf attendees. \$300 per Gathering is proposed, which is a “token” payment for hiring an interpreter for a full weekend.

After a lengthy discussion about the Board reimbursing a PC up to \$300 to hire a signer, and perhaps seeing much resistance to getting money added to the Board’s budget for this service, Robert changed his proposal accordingly.

***Discussion Notes:***

Robert: The CMG encourages the many differently-abled attendees; the Board will reimburse PCs up to \$300 for the services of an interpreter for the deaf. Ben-Andy: why the Board and not the PCs? Robert: the Board is the leader of the PCs. Zak: the board isn’t required to do this.

Jason: it will be \$900 annually. Tom: Has there been a need for this? Robert: Yes. What other ADA provisions, and does this set a precedence? Robert: No. Is \$300 enough for an entire weekend? Robert: No, it’s a small stipend for an interpreter to consider. Will the interpreter be offered a comp? Robert: The PC may offer this. Dave Clark: Couldn’t the PC take this on?

Robert: No. The Board should reimburse this, so there is less burden for procuring the services of an interpreter? Will the Board get the money back? Robert: The board won’t be charged if no interpreter is needed. Ed Wahl: other men with disabilities aren’t offered paid for services (cites examples), Stewart: add “if needed” at the end of the proposal--accepted. Phil agrees with Ed.

Ben-Andy: the PCs can afford this. Gary: this might be something for LA Cares to cover. Rich likes the idea. Barry: admirable, but the Board can’t afford the \$900. Most interpreters charge 10x the proposed amount. A ramp was made for wheelchair access, and paid for by the PC. Jim R. thinks this a PC concern. How about a check box, to solicit volunteer helpers to disabled people? Ed P.: the Board can’t afford this item. It needs to be a PC-paid item. Dave: the budget won’t allow this kind of payment. Thinks this could be a Board-adopted resolution, but not an obligation. Buzz: people with disabilities often choose facilities that won’t hamper them, and the CMG also offers FA for disabled people. The “Pandora’s box” needs to be one of kindness. Bob: agrees in principal, but we can’t afford this.

Ed Wahl: other men with disabilities aren’t offered paid for services (cites examples), Stewart: add “if needed” at the end of the proposal--accepted. Phil agrees with Ed. Ben-Andy: the PCs can afford this. Gary: this might be something for LA Cares to cover. Rich likes the idea. Barry: admirable, but the Board can’t afford the \$900. Most interpreters charge 10x the proposed amount. A ramp was made for wheelchair access, and paid for by the PC. Jim R. thinks this a PC concern. How about a check box, to solicit volunteer helpers to disabled people? Ed P.: the Board can’t afford this item. It needs to be a PC-paid item. Dave: the budget won’t allow this kind of payment. Thinks this could be a Board-adopted resolution, but not an obligation. Buzz: people with disabilities often choose facilities that won’t hamper them, and the CMG also offers FA for disabled people. The “Pandora’s box” needs to be one of kindness. Bob: agrees in principal, but we can’t afford this.

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*A break was taken. At the conclusion of the break, Mike reminded the Members of the impending agenda: at 4:30 all business will end.*

**Medical Marijuana (Joe, for Bradley and Steve Anderson):**

Medical MJ is covered by state law. The proposal “memorializes” this so that it’s in the corporate mind. ***Referred to the Board of Directors, by co-author.***

**Copyright Laws (Ed Wahl)**

*Tally: 20Y; 0N; 1A--Adopted.*

The CMG shall comply with copyright laws of the USA, in regards to intellectual property, specifically related to music use and performance.

(1)Annual memberships shall be purchased, with ASCAP and BMI/SESAC, for performance licensing and rights. We can then apply the license to talent shows, DJ use, and the official CMG Song, as well as Community Gatherings, Workshops, and other times during a Gathering where music is performed.

(2)No distribution of copywritten materials (music and other protected materials) shall be made.

Ed pointed out specific points:

CMG complies with intellectual property, in regards to music.

--subscription to ASCAP, SESAC, et al.,

--no distribution of copyrighted materials.

Dave: the public rights costs? \$100/year, for a subscription to a license, per clearing house. Tom: why is it music only? Music copyright law is extensive, and complicated. Other arts could be addressed, by Ed or another person. Robert: Do we also prohibit copying and distribution of CR songs? Yes, since we could be potentially sued for infractions of illegal use.

Barry: friendly amendment: a camp may have already paid for this matter. Joe pointed out that the LECs might want to use songs or music that is copyrighted. These amendments are not accepted.

### **LEC Public Identification (Ben-Andy)**

Note: Ben-Andy postponed the dropping of Database Manager as a Board Position. In it's place, he offered this proposal:

Nomenclature change--LECs have had many abbreviations over the years; Proposal: change the public identification, from "LEC-" to "CMG--"

*Tally--Y:15; N:5; B:0; A:0--This is adopted.*

#### *Discussion Notes:*

Rich: would this change the local designations? This is up to each individual LEC.

Jan: not an issue. Zak: in favor, Buzz: not in favor, since this could create a conflict with the PCs. Mohabee and Dave agree with Buzz. Barry: most people are already confused by our designations. Richard: Sacramento still uses "EC"

***Note: These are proposals that were considered, but were not listed during the Visioning Session:***

### **CMG World (Zakkary Zoah)**

Zak: Do we want to continue "CMG World" planned community.

Barry: this was to include a campground, retirement community, and co-housing. It may be a long-term project. Zak: Is the group interested in supporting a CMG World committee? Zak asks for "hands," to identify possible committee members. There were no volunteers. *This matter was withdrawn by the author.*

### **Board Communications (Barry)**

Proposal: The Board will send highlights of Board Meetings and the ABM, when they are available to the public, via Binky's List.

*Tally: 20Y; 0N; 0A*

#### ***Discussion Notes:***

CMG Board Reps. are the messengers, who carry back all Board decisions, so that PC or LEC members can glean the info. Barry suggests using the enotify system, for a quarterly report, or on the website, after a meeting's records are available. Joe: this system will be placed in effect already. Buzz wants to know what is happening at Events Committees. Milo: will this be sent to everyone on the database? Barry: could we at least have the highlights of the meetings?

Amendment: add this to Binky's List. The Board is to send highlights of its meetings and the ABM, to the Binky's List editor.

### ***Meeting Adjournment***

The CMG ABM of 2011 was adjourned 4:31 PM, and was followed by a closing exercise, led by Ben-Andy Hein. This activity was adjourned at 5:00 PM.