

California Men's Gatherings 2018 Annual Member's Meeting

January 13-14, 2018

Point Bonita YMCA, Sausalito, CA

Members Present

(28 men are voting members immediately and 31 eventually become so over the duration of the weekend)

Joe Wagenhofer, Larry Geller, Bill Ketchum, Mac Nomura, Jeffrey Rhykus, John Bayes. Mike Fahy, Frank Rothacker, Jodie Hart, Jamie Simmons, Clay Kilgore, Norman Skonovd, Mohabee Serrano, John Torres, Ben-Andy Hein, Frank Hermann, Tony Hermann, Vic Fusilero, Uncle Drew Blanchar, Traye Turner, Steve Ibarra, Steve Johns, Philip Carberry, Charlie Malarkey, Tom Taffel, Bill Repp, Roberto Garcia, Rich Farshler, Sam Ladion. Michael Kramer, Virsil Mitchell

Non-Voting Members/Visitors

Sam Skinner, Robert Zarren

Exec. Officer Absent

Milo Shaprio-Vice President

Elders *(Included in Members' Present)*

Mike Fahy, Joe Wagenhofer, Rich Farshler

Meeting called to order at 9 AM with an opening quote: (Jamie)

"Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives."

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Members Meeting 2017, MLK Weekend (Mohabee Serrano)

minutes approved by acclamation 24 votes

2. Jamie asked Mike Fahy to act as Vibes Keeper. Mike also noted that an elder, or anyone who feels the need, can call "vibes."

AMM Voting Membership Requirements -(Ben-Andy) - In general, to be a voting member of CMG starting at any AMM you,

Have completed a "term of service" of at least 25 hours in the previous year in a recognized capacity [means having served on a CMG PC, LEC, the Board or some other Committee, not a sub-cmte of a PC for example]

OR

You qualified as a member the previous year with a "term of service" [so we were in 2018, the above is 25 hours in 2017 and this is 25 hours in 2016]

OR

You qualified as a member and paid dues at the previous years' AMM [so you can have done your toss in 2015, attended in 2016 AND 17, paid the dues each time and you are still eligible]

OR

You have accumulated 10 years of voting membership by any of the above methods (Stated by Mike Fahy)

AND

You have paid the dues of \$1 prior to voting at the AMM [technically, you can pay the \$1 and NOT attend the AMM to maintain your voting status, though you can't vote and there are not proxies.].

THEN

You are a voting member of the CMG until the next AMM [when it starts all over again].

(Ben-Andy) "Everyone eligible to vote has paid their \$1 dues."

PROPOSAL #1- Clay Kilgore- Changes in Voting Membership PASSED BY MAJORITY

Clay proposes that we suspend the voting membership requirement) Article 12, sec 2) for this AMM for Men who are present at the Annual Members Meeting having a right to vote at the meeting

See Article 13 sec 2 of the California Men's Gatherings bylaws preamble; Jan. 2014; (Mohabee Serrano, Secretary, Historian emeritus)

VOTES: YES- 14, NO- 5.

Ben Andy: (Ten votes needed to pass an item because only 19 voted yes or no). With the passage of this measure allowing everyone to vote these members now admitted.

Members Present (28 of 31 Voting members present)

(3 non-voting members by choice and non-payment of \$1.00 membership dues but may do so later.

Introduction by Jamie Simmons-

We operate on a "hybrid" of Open Space. Once we have the agenda items, we break into discussions groups, to further determine the course of several matters. There will be two sessions today to do this.

Some of the items will be refined, worded and phrased correctly, and will become proposals for the Members to vote on later during this Annual Members Meeting. Other matters may be discussed in the groups...but the men in those groups might recommend no action be taken.

PROPOSAL #2. Changes in Minutes Approval and Distribution - PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

The CMG MEMBERSHIP specifies that a draft of the Minutes from the Annual Member Meeting [AMM] be sent out electronically ASAP after the AMM each year to all attendees for review and to make any corrections within 7 days of receipt. When there is a tracked corrected set, the minutes again will be sent to the Voting Members VOTE to accept them or not, to the voting members, giving them 3 days to register a vote. If a majority of those voting vote to accept, the minutes as will be approved as a DRAFT edition of the minutes for that AMM. Once the minutes are approved as a DRAFT by the members who attended the AMM, the minutes will then be posted to the CMG website and distributed to the public. It is suggested that we aim to complete this process no later than three weeks after the conclusion of the AMM. The DRAFT minutes will be finally approved at the AMM the following year.

VOTE: YES- 28, Unanimous.

Group Proposals (Ben-Andy/Jamie) Opened up the floor for topic and gave instructions in a brain storming session using a white board.

Proposal with strikethrough were withdrawn later by the submitting party. All formal proposals must be submitted in writing.

1. ~~Consolidation of Communications System - Frank R.~~
2. Offer \$150 Financial Aid to First Timers w/ \$100. To returnees- Mike F.
3. ~~Liberalize Voting Membership - Norm~~
4. ~~Consolidate Operating Procedures - Mohabee~~
5. ~~Deadline for AMM Minutes - 1st Electronic Posting - Pre-Draft - Jeffrey~~
6. Review Current Policy for Possession and Consumption of Alcohol at Events- Vic
7. ~~Broadcast AMM on Zoom - Michael K~~
8. Clarification of Marijuana as Medical or Recreational at Events-Charlie
9. ~~Clarification of Quiet Zones in the Sleeping Areas - Sam~~

10. Update Mission Statement-Clay
11. Ways of Making CMG more visible (Marketing) Roberto. (Multiculturalism) Sam
12. ~~Graphic Identify-Clay~~
13. Inclusion of All Genders- Jeffrey
14. ~~Centralized AMM Location— Michael K~~
15. Diversity – John T.
16. Partnering Fundraising -Donating – Donating- Jeffrey
17. ~~Rethink “CMG” to expand reach beyond California—Michael K.~~
18. 40th Anniversary – John T.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Meeting resumes at 1:00PM

Jamie invited all members to thank and show gratitude to the Bay Area Events Committee for the search for a residential camp option that resulted in the AMM at the Camp Bonita YMCA in the Marin Headlands. All present twinkled the committee members for all the challenging work they put into hosting the AMM.

Guest Speaker from the Billys-Robert Zarren

One of the options the Summer Gathering Planning Committee was considering at the time of the AMM was a unity Gathering proposed by the Billys and envisioned as including CMG, the Billys, and Generate to be held at Saratoga Springs during Labor Day weekend. Billy member, Robert Zarren, presented the idea of the “Unity Gathering,” discussed history of the Billys, the opportunities and possible challenges of a Unity Gathering, and then answered questions regarding the proposal. It was made clear that this is an information Gathering opportunity only and the final decision regarding where the Summer Gathering would be held ultimately rested with the CMG Summer Planning Committee.

DISCUSSION- (PROPOSAL NOT COMPLETED) Discussion and Proposal Drugs & Alcohol Policy

Owner Vic Fusilero

Suggested changes to the original The CMG prohibits the use of all alcohol and recreational drugs at its Gatherings... expelling when it is safe to do so. Friendly amendment

Straw vote 21Y;4 N;3A;0B

Reviewed Current Proposal

Drug and Alcohol Policy

Attendees to CMG's and other CMG-sponsored activities may not use recreational drugs or drink alcohol, during the event (1999).

Planners are empowered to immediately expel anyone caught using drugs or drinking alcohol and offer no refund to such an individual. This policy applies to all CMG events (LTPC, Gatherings, Potlucks, and Meetings of the Board and Members).

All promotional materials for any CMG function (including, but not limited to, Gatherings, LTPC events, Members' and CMG Board Meetings), shall include the following statement:

"All CMG Functions are Alcohol and Drug-Free" (1999).

The CMG prohibits the use of all alcohol and recreational drugs at its Gatherings, Board Meetings, Planning Meetings, and Events Committee meetings. This policy will be printed in all promotional and advertising materials regarding the events listed above (2001).

The CMG also prohibits the use of recreational drugs at any EC event it's associated with. Alcohol may be acceptable at some of its EC functions, such as potlucks or dining out events; however, it may be prohibited at the discretion of event planners or potluck host(s). If the use of alcohol is prohibited at a potluck, etc., it must be clearly stated in the promotional materials (2001).

- A. Change
- B. Update the language to end prohibition

DISUCSSION- After discussion around the room it was determined that lifting the alcohol ban would cause prominent members for the CMG to block the proposal and if it were to pass, they would not attend any Gathering permitting alcohol. After some back and forth on the wording. Straw vote 21Y;4 N;3A;0B

Vic and Ben-Andy came up with the following proposal:

PROPOSAL #3- Recreational Drug and Alcohol Policy- PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

Because we believe in being present to one another is a key part of a Gathering, CMG Gatherings are not a place for recreational drugs or alcohol.

The above paragraph of this policy will be printed in all promotional and advertising materials regarding Gatherings.

Planners are empowered to expel anyone caught using recreational drugs or drinking alcohol when it is safe to do so and offer no refund to such an individual. This policy applies to all CMG events (LEC events, meetings of the board and meetings of the members as well as Gatherings).

The CMG also prohibits the use of recreational drugs at any LEC event it is associated with. Alcohol may be acceptable at some LEC functions, such as potlucks or dining out events; however, it may be prohibited at the discretion of event planners or potluck host

(s). The status of alcohol should be clearly stated in the promotional materials of any event (i.e. "There will be alcohol at this event." "There might be alcohol at this event." Alcohol is not allowed at this event.")

VOTES: 21 Y, 4 N, 3 A, 0 B

AMMENDED PROPOSAL: John Bayes - Change Language to Allow Marijuana regardless of Medicinal Use.

Discussion- To make modification [s] for Marijuana. Thus, medical is fine in appropriate locations and recreational is not.

Y-4 N-23 A-1 B-0 AMMENDMENT FOR MARIJUANA FAILS

Agenda and Process of the Meeting—reminders

This meeting is like a "popcorn" session—the sky is the limit, and everyone present is welcome to present a matter to be discussed

Election of Directors

(Except as noted, all the incumbent Directors were affirmed for continuing term of service.)

“CMG Board of Directors Elections Process Note: The President presented each position of the Executive Committee, which get elected by the Members every year. The positions were announced, and each of the current Officers read the duties of the office, along with a brief personal description, before nominees were selected. Once the nominations were closed for each Office, the nominees (if present), left the room, and a private discussion about the candidates was heard among the Members. A vote was made, by simple hand raising (Yes or No votes only), for single-candidate votes; ballots were distributed, for two or more candidate elections. The candidate(s) returned to the meeting room, and the vote results were announced.” (2017)

California Men’s Gatherings Nominations:

President

Jamie Simmons nominated, accepts

Virsil is nominated, declines

Result of vote: Jamie Simmons is elected President (2nd year of service, termed out in 2019 from all Director positions)

Vice President

Milo S. not running again

Vic is nominated, accepts

Result of vote: Vic Fusilero is elected Vice President (1st One-year term on Board)

Secretary

Virsil not running again

Michael Kramer is nominated, accepts

Result of vote: Michael Kramer is elected Secretary (1st One-year term on Board)

Treasurer

Jeff is nominated, declined

Ben Andy is nominated, accepts

Result of vote: Ben Andy is elected (3rd year of 3 as Treasurer). Two years remaining on Board

Treasurer' Report Ben Andy Hein - CMG Treasurer

CMG had a very good year in 2017. We held 3 Gatherings which all produced surpluses plus innumerable local events which gave our members many things to do all through the year, provided support for the Financial Aid program and paid for the eNotify system. We again held our "high profile" Short Film Festival [co-sponsored by the City of West Hollywood and a fundraiser for AidsWalkLA] and even paid most of the expenses of holding the 2018 AMM "at camp" and STILL only lost \$550.55 CMG-wide!

Further, we received donations large and small, even via AmazonSmile and through Workplace Giving. We face a few challenges, but we ended the year with just over \$94,000 in total assets [spread out in our 11 bank accounts] and the Statewide reserves are \$38,020.26 to which we must add \$9,365 K in Unrestricted Donations which we do NOT have to spend on Financial Aid, unless we want to. The Statewide reserves and the Financial Aid Fund and the Unrestricted Funds account **ALL INCREASED** during the year. We did well. Even after offering \$1,000 to each of the 3 Gatherings from the FA Fund, it grew by \$733.96 to \$5,069.81.

One area of concern in 2017 was the support services for our online Registration and eNotify system. We budgeted only \$3,500 [which was to include "upgrading" at \$3K] and spent \$6,673.15 [which was largely tech support]. It turns out our system wasn't being maintained and so we were severely behind in our updates/routine maintenance. Our Webmaster Larry came up with an excellent solution: he learned how to maintain our system from our former outside supplier [they charged us \$150 per hour for this service, naturally], using their methodology. This allows us to continue to use them "if need be" and yet routine maintenance/updates/upgrades can be handled in house at a price we can afford [nearly zero]. We expect TOTAL 2018 expenses on technology to be in the \$725 range but have proposed \$1,725 to be sure we aren't surprised again. Who knows, maybe we'll even get something "new" for those \$\$\$. Not a new system. Civi is serving us well and probably more cheaply than anything else we could use, now that we can maintain it ourselves. You can quickly see that \$3,100 in

un-budgeted but very necessary expenses is why we did not grow our asset base again this year as we did last. Still, we came very close.

CMG as a whole took in \$121,774.96 and spent \$122,325.51. Of that Income, a whopping \$30,255.96 was DONATED, not Gathering Fees! We [San Diego] even collected and donated \$772 to Puerto Rico relief efforts. The Short Film Festival donated its net proceeds of \$2,048.50 on income of \$3,562.97 to AWLA [kudos to Jim Hoffman and his all volunteer crew]. The last two projects were undertaken with the sole purpose of giving to those charities. The Board considers the Short Film Festival "free advertising" of CMG [WeHo extensively promotes the event and CMG's name/logo/website is prominently featured]. Additionally, our Marketing Director Vic spent \$3,363.21, mostly on Facebook ads which we have seen some positive results from. For 2018 he is suggesting we lower that expense to \$2,000.

The excel spreadsheet accompanying this report is based on my worksheet for doing CMG's annual tax filing. Some of the numbers are condensed when reported to the IRS but the spreadsheet includes every detail about CMG's 2017 operations. If you don't know how to read a spreadsheet, I'd be happy to help you with it or to answer any questions. It will print on 4 pages at this size type. The sheet also includes the 2018 budget. There are two other spreadsheets [not included, but available upon request]

See budget

Meeting Recessed Until Tomorrow at 9:00 AM

DAY 2, CMG Annual Members Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Opening quote: (Jamie)

*"I always say to people, "If you share my dream, why don't we walk together?"
And that's my only organizing tool."*

--Harry Hay

BOARD Meeting held at 9:15. Adjourned at 11:30 AM

Mike Fahy –re- centered the group.

Resumed Annual Members Meeting 11:45AM

2018 BUDGET APPROVAL Ben -Andy Submitted a proposed budget for 2018-APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION

See ATTACHED

VOTES: Y-28 N-0 A-0

PROPOSAL #4 – North and South Outreach Director Split - PASSES BY ACCLAMATION

Ben-Andy proposes to Split Outreach Director in two positions-North and South Outreach.

VOTES: YES- 29 NO-0

By Passing- Appointed Co-Directors, Steve Ibarra and Mac Nomura will now have their own votes and represent North and South (RESPECTIVELY)

BREAK FOR LUNCH

AMM Resumes- 1:01 PM

SET UP BREAKOUT GROUPS:

Members break into four groups at a time as prioritized by vote on the white board to discuss and decide if and what proposal to make the whole group.

Membership Reassembles to share proposals and eliminate those withdrawn.

PROPOSAL #5- Diversity – PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

Proposal 1: [Members: John Torres, Sam Ladion, Roberto Garcia, Bill Ketchum, Mac Nomura, Norman Skonovd, Frank Hermann, Traye Turner, Rich Farshler, Clay Kilgore, Jeff Rykhus] we will continue to work throughout the year on this subject.

It is recommended that CMG:

- 1) Create local events or spaces at Gatherings for separate affinity groups to meet and open to all;
- 2) Provide a physical setting at events for all affinity groups to have a collective activity that is open to all;

- 3) Provide development to partnering with like-minded or membership for multicultural sensitivity training;
- 4) Ask the Board and outreach coordinators to present at the next Board Meeting specific benchmarks for the coming year with regards to diversity outreach;
- 5) Provide marketing that shows photos of diverse men and that provides articles to diverse publications;
- 6) Ensure that outreach be made to mental health professionals;
- 7) Cultivate workshops on this topic.

(Sam suggested making presentations about CMG at queer college conferences)

VOTES: Y- 27 N-0 A-1

PROPOSAL #6 - Funding for Sensitivity Training -PASSED BY MAJORITY-

To increase multicultural/diversity awareness and understanding of unconscious bias from an individual and collective perspective, it is proposed that CMG host a multicultural diversity one day workshop at both north and south locations in California either before or after the summer and fall/spring Gatherings. A budget of \$1,000 be set aside for this event.

A committee will be created to plan the logistics, promote the event and encourage other lgbtq orgs to attend.

VOTES: Y-24 Y N-2 A-2

PROPOSAL #7- EACH GATHERING COMMITTEE TO SET ASIDE \$100 AND PLAN FOR SATURDAY EVENING RUBY ANNIVERSARY PARTY. PASSED BY MAJORITY

Jodie Ruby Anniversary 100 dollars for each Gathering. Saturday night dinner

Y-23 N-2 A-2 PASSED BY MAJORITY

PROPOSAL #8 PARTNERING WITH LIKE MINDED ORGANIZATIONS- PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

Jeff R. – The CMG supports and encourages likeminded organizations as a form of outreach.

VOTES: Y -27 N-0 A-1

PROPOSAL #9 FINANCIAL AID STATEWIDE FOR FIRSTIMERS AT GATHEIRINGS -PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

Mike Fahy -Standard financial aid for First Timers at a Gathering, given on request as always, will be \$150 off the lowest rate. The First Timer FA is a liability of the corporation. After the first Gathering, the standard FA grant will remain \$100 off the lowest rate and is a liability of the PC.

Y -25 N-O A -0 PASSED BY AFIRMATION

PROPOSAL #10 - Clay moves to change the mission statement - FAILS

Our mission is to create safe, supportive spaces for men to gather; to connect, develop, and find ourselves

loving

belonging to

a diverse, welcoming community of men.

VOTES- Y-14 N-9 A- 3 B-3 PROPOSAL BLOCKED

-FIRST AMENDED PROPOSAL John Torres.

Vote to create committee to vote on next year.

VOTES-Y-15 N-8 A-5. B—1 AMMENDED PROPOSAL BLOCKED

-SECOND AMMENDIED PROPOSAL- Norm -

Keep Current Mission Statement

VOTES-Y 11 N-7 A-8 B-33 AMMENDED PROPOSAL BLOCKED

-THIRD AMMENDED PROPOSAL Clay

VOTESL Y-17 N- 7-A 4 A B-1 FIANL AMMENDED PROPOSAL FAILS

Note: By failing, Norms amendment wins by default.

PROPOSAL-10 - Diversity -Women - PASSED BY MAJORITY

Jeff R. – Just as in the past, when women were invited to participate in Gatherings. The CMG invites planning committees to consider inviting to “a Gathering”, in the spirit of inclusiveness and thinking outside of the box.

VOTES-Y 15 N-7 A-5 B-0

CLOSING of the AMM

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM