

California Men's Gatherings
2011 Summer Board of Directors Meeting
71st CMG, Camp Newman
September 2, 2011

Summary of the Meeting

No new ByLaws were considered, nor were any ByLaws changed.

Changes to the CMG Operating Procedures:

Increase seed money to Planning Committees (PCs)-approved as amended.

Membership Composition of Local Events Committees (LECs): approved as amended.

Matters tabled to the next Board Meeting: 3

Matters tabled to the Executive Committee: 1

Matters tabled to the 2012 Annual Business Meeting (ABM): 1

In Attendance

Executive Board

Mike Fahy, President

Ben-Andy Hein, Vice-President

Ed Perez, Treasurer

Mohabee Serrano, Secretary

Appointed Officers

Jim Ruboyianes, Webmaster

James Badberg, Communications Director

Dave Clark, Development Director

Mohabee Serrano, Archivist/Historian

Ed Wahl, Arts Coordinator

Lee Usher, Technical Advisor-Absent

Planning Committee Representatives

Steve Anderson, 71st CMG

Philip Bowden, 72nd CMG

Robert Burnham, 73rd CMG

Local Events Committee Representatives

Jamie Simmons, LEC-DC

Milo Shapiro, LEC-SD

Thomas Nicholson, LEC-LA

David Knopf, LEC-BA

Peter Marcoccia, LEC-Sac

Visitors

Frank Rothacker, Barry Schoenfeld, Rich Farshler, Al-Binky Hoch

Voting Record: 14 are qualified to vote at this meeting.

Vibes Keeper: Robert Burnham; Time Keeper: Milo Shapiro

Meeting Called to Order: 2:06 PM, with a Visualization Exercise, and a check-in following the exercise.

OLD BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Approve the Minutes of the May 25, 2011 Meeting (Mohabee Serrano)

Ed Perez seconds; Approved unanimously.

Board Meeting Organization – *Mohabee (CMG Board Secretary)*

Process for submitting Board Meeting agenda items, and who to submit these to.

Visitors are requested to submit proposals, or other items for the Board to consider, either via the LEC Board Rep., or directly to the Secretary or President.

Board Member Voting Privileges, and terms of service—review.

Jim wants clarification about the hiatus which occurs between the three consecutive years one can serve the Board, in order to have voting privileges.

- Provided that the Board approves the re-instatement, or when an election confirms it, one can serve three additional consecutive terms in one office, and hence, can vote during Board Meetings, after having vacated the same office for one year.
 - When one changes to another position on the Board, a new three-year term begins when the officer is elected or chosen to serve a different or new Board position.
 - What isn't clear is when an officer's three-year term of voting ends, and when it resumes, after the one-year hiatus period. For Board Representatives, this is especially difficult to determine, since a Board Rep's term may end sometime during the calendar year, after a Gathering closes, or due to a mid-year LEC election.
 - After further discussion, it was decided that more specific language would need to be added to the Bylaws regarding Board Member terms of voting. This will be addressed at the forthcoming 2012 ABM, in San Francisco.
- ***Meeting Agenda and Supporting Documents deadline—review.*** The Secretary will request agenda items (proposals, reports, and other documents) one month prior to a scheduled Board Meeting, and then will send the collected documents out to the Board one week prior to the meeting.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement (Ed Perez)

ED: passed out a printed report, with the current balances of the CMG bank accounts, and a budget report, which was updated prior to the Board Meeting.

Items which are over budget: Insurance and I-Contact.

I-contact notes: Money was transferred from each LEC bank account, to the Main Board acct. 79% of this expense was covered by LEC-LA. James prefers a quarterly

report, for I-Contact usage. Review: When the Board began using an email message service, the Board covered 50%; today, the LECs cover the entire amount cumulatively, and the Board owes nothing. The I Contact account charges are based upon usage (month-to-month).

Other Items Over Budget: Board Retreat Expenses--\$389 over budget. The special Board Ropes Course, which is scheduled on Sunday morning, will be accounted for in the next Treasurer's Report, at the Fall CMG Board Meeting. Dave: Board retreat travel is based on how many requests the treasurer gets for this item. Dave and Ed will get together to discuss the Board Retreat expense budget for the future.

Other Treasury Discussion Notes:

- Upgrades to the computer and registration costs seem high, according to Jim.
- SD Pride expenses are covered, or are in the process of closure. SF Pride is covered. No bill from Sacramento was received. LA Pride needs to send billing to Ed. Ed thinks we are on track, with the current budget.
- Robert asks whether the budget will be short or balanced at the end of the year. Ed says that the CMG will be short, but we'll be around \$1800 over budget. BA says the insurance rate will be lowered to \$600. We have a "surplus" from the past year. Kudos was given to Ed.

How the corporate budget works (Ed Perez)

Ed described what a corporate budget is, and how we can make the CMG Board Budget more effective.

A "budget" is a "picture" of what will likely cover the Board, based upon previous payments and expenses. New items will be difficult, but can be budgeted tentatively.

- How can the budgeting processes better meet our needs?

PC Seed Money Increase Proposal (Ed Perez) Passed as written, Y: 10; N: 0; A: 0.

Increase the seed money PCs receive, from \$8K to \$12K.

Ben-Andy seconds, for the purposes of discussion.

Discussion Notes:

Ben-Andy says passing this might help pre-pay rental expenses. Ed says that items which are seasonal could be purchased at a better discount. An amendment is proposed, in which Planners are to approach the Executive Committee, for approval, if their expenses exceed the budget. Jim suggests a "ceiling" be placed on excess spending requests. Despite some agreement with this, the amendment is struck out. Mike Fahy says that the terms of the amendment are "already in place."

Dave Clark reminded the Board, that every penny of PC seed money is going to be repaid. It's a guaranteed "loan" which will be paid back, through revenue received.

Financial Assistance: Ed says that any time there is money for a specific purpose, it can't be comingled with a "general" fund. The FASB, Financial Accounting Standards Board, provides guidelines for corporations to follow, regarding the separation of specified funds and general funds. FA funds can only be used for funding FA requests.

The CMG Corporate Bank Account has \$165,000. A list will be submitted to the Secretary, to be shared with the Board, which shows the breakdown of the uses of this money. The importance of these numbers is that there has been "talk" about the Board's money. The misunderstanding is that the money is CMG operating funds, shared by all of the PCs and LECs. Barry: the money is "our" money.

Mike acknowledges Ben-Andy, Dave Clark, and Ed P., and said that these men have served an important role in the course of the CMG Treasury and in its bookkeeping.

Leadership Development Report (Mike Fahy)

Referred to the Fall Board Meeting by its author.

Process Notes: Mike intends to finish the meeting by 4:30 PM. He leads a "hand signal" exercise, to help the Board focus and relax.

Reports from PCs

- 71st CMG Steve Anderson

Steve says 200 (+ or – 10) men will be present. A new camp management team is in place, and a scheduling snafu with the departing children's camp occurred, making the camp unavailable for an early set-up by the 71st CMG Planners and volunteers.

The 71st Planners will pass along their ideas and record books to the Secretary and Treasurer, in the coming months.

- 72nd CMG (Philip Bowden)

Mike Martinez is now a committee co-chairman. Budgeting for this Gathering is right on track; no spending is occurring at this time. There's no difference between current spending, and the spending record of the previous Fall Gathering. Attendance is budgeted for 111; over 115 helps us; under 100 will not cause budgetary problems, either. 125 is the attendee cap, due to limitations of the sleeping facilities. Theme: "Havin' Fun. The logo is of a CA vanity license plate, with the theme name on it. Names of rooms will be changed. Philip isn't certain whether a silent auction will be held at the 72nd CMG.

- 73rd CMG (Robert Burnham)

Robert says that the delay of the budget is intentional. 10 men are on the PC. An Outdoor Festival will be integrated into the Gathering. No theme has been

chosen yet. Gathering Values: Personal Growth and Community. Bob Ames is the treasurer.

- 70th CMG—Robert says the last spring Gathering was able to contribute its obligation to the Board (13%) this year. The budget withstood possible shortfalls. Price increases, and also the continuing economy, and a lower attendance were cited as possible reasons for the budgetary “roughness” in the 70th CMG spending and planning. There will be \$3.1 K for financial assistance next spring. Robert says a silent auction will be present, for FA funding, too.

Development Director Report and Proposals (Dave Clark, CMG Development Director)

Dave Clark provided a brief review of the Financial Assistance (FA) process. The 2010 ABM determined that any left-over funds from Gatherings will roll over to the next Gathering of the same season. In this process, \$3100 will go to FA, from the 70th CMG surplus.

By-laws and Operating Procedures Revision Report (Follow-up from 2011 ABM) - Dave Clark

Dave says Al-Binky knows Bill Otn, who was at the Board Retreat. Dave and Bill will work on the ByLaws, and will have a preliminary report on their progress, for the next Board Meeting.

Communications Director Report (James Badberg)

- I-Contact update and recommendations for possible changes to our existing setup. James says that LEC-LA and SD are using the new folder system, to make the I Contact system more effective. James has been steadily changing the system over during the past year. Sacramento and Desert Cities will be transferred in a few weeks. A letter will be sent out to subscribers, to inform them about their current subscriptions, and to encourage them to subscribe only to their local events. James says he'll investigate another system to replace I Contact. The current contract expires in the spring of 2012. \$1200 has been spent on I Contact to this date, in 2011.
- Software will be procured, to see if we can have a video conference for future Board Meetings. Webcams may need to be procured, too, for Board meetings with Skype. James says the first “test” meeting for videoconferencing, will likely be the first quarter Board Meeting, in 2012.
- New Webmaster search update. Ross Todd, the candidate the Board approved, has health problems which might affect his ability to serve as CMG Webmaster. Ross was given some time to decide if he can do this. Lee Usher may come on board, if there are no new candidates. Jim says there is no sense of urgency about replacing himself. Jim will continue to serve as Webmaster until a new candidate is chosen, or if Lee Usher is brought in to eventually replace him.

- Barry suggests consideration—to set up a sub-committee made up of “experts” in a particular field, with the President establishing these committees. Mike thanks Barry for the suggestion.

NEW BUSINESS

CMG Leadership Ethics - Ben-Andy (CMG Board Vice-President)

Ben-Andy passed a printed report, based upon exercises derived from the 2011 Board Retreat. We spent a considerable time at the Retreat, learning how to “stand up,” as a group, at the retreat. The list is about things that came out of the afternoon brainstorming session. Ben-Andy thinks that the “community spirit” was alive and well at the Retreat. Ben-Andy says the list reviews the essence of the ethics question: “What do we want our leaders to be?”

Future Budget Planning, for PCs (Ben-Andy Hein)

Withdrawn by author. This matter will be brought up at the next Board Meeting.

Organization of the LEC Congresses – Operating Procedures Revision (Mike Fahy)

Mike tabled this proposal to the next CMG Board Meeting.

Development of Basic PC Planning Checklist (Mike Fahy)

This matter was referred to the Executive Committee.

Revisions to current “CMG Men With Restraining Orders” policy (CMG Operating Procedures). Milo Shapiro (LEC-SD)

Withdrawn by author.

Composition of LEC Members (Milo Shapiro)

Passes, with friendly amendments: Y: 11; N: 0; A: 1

LEC composition shall include at least two members who are either past Gathering Planners or have served as LEC members, for at least one year, and have attended at least one Gathering.

Elimination of Current CMG “Hotline” (Jim Ruboyianes)

To save \$750 annually, Jim suggests that we eliminate the telephone hotline service, which is provided by Onebox. The toll-free service is transcribed to Voice Mail, which is transferred to a designated person. Jim thinks that email is more effective for handling problems. Conference calling could be done via a free conference call. Since the next possible Board Teleconference will be held in the Spring of 2012, we can find a good service that is free.

Proposal: Empower Jim and James to look into Google Voice, along with other similar services, and then eliminate the service with Onebox. Passes by acclamation. Jim and James will address their findings with the Exec. Board, in the coming months. Robert B. seconds.

Discussion Notes: David Knopf disagrees with this, since it gives no option other than email, to communicate with the CMG. Al-Binky says he’s already been

disenfranchised in many ways. Rich thinks it is advantageous to have a phone service. Thomas thinks that there might be a service that will transcribe from voice to email text, such as Google Voice, so that someone wanting to phone the CMG can do this.

Tabled Items

Due to the time restrictions, the following will be tabled to the Fall Board Meeting: PC Budget Planning, Leadership Development, and EC Congresses.

Referred to the 2012 ABM: Review, and possible revision, of current Terms of Board Member Voting Privileges.

Referred to the Executive Committee: PC Planning Checklist.

Adjournment: 4:55 PM, after Ed Wahl's closing exercise.