

CMG Board of Directors Meeting
Camp Stevens, Julian, CA
Nov. 21, 2015

Board Members Present:

Mohabee Serrano, Blaid Peisinger, Matthew Sunderland, Frank Rothacker, Jamie Simmons, Norman Skonovd, Joe Wagenhofer, Karim Christopher.

Board Members, Absent:

Dave Clark, Charlie Malarkey, Drew Blanchar, Jeffrey Rykhus, Jim Ruboyianes, Clay Kilgore, Cat Walker, Lee Usher, Larry Geller, Alan Weaver.

Meeting Brought To Order: 7:45 AM, by President Matthew Sunderland. Quorum was met, though this is not critical for this meeting, which was held mostly to review updates and reports.

Old Business

Secretary's Report (Mohabee Serrano)

There were two documents, which were sent out to the Board, prior to the meeting. One was a revised version of the Aug. 19, 2015 Teleconference Minutes, and the other document was for the last Board Meeting, at Camp Newman (September 5, 2015). The Secretary presented both items, and the Board approved both, unanimously.

2016 Annual Business Meeting (Norman Skonovd)

Norman says a big house at Lions Gate Inn, in Sacramento, has been reserved for the meetings, scheduled for January 15-17, 2016. Adjacent to the house is a duplex where people attending can be housed. On Friday night, a catered dinner will be served to attendees planning to arrive early. There will be catered meals for breakfast and lunch, Saturday, and also Brunch on Sunday. A mingling event will also be held, Saturday evening, for entertainment. Norman says he and Richard Farshler will be the hosts and Planners. Al-Binky Hoch is doing well, but is still recovering from a fall, and is unable to help. Other LEC-Sacramento Planners will help out as they can. Sacramento's Airport will be a place of entry, for those flying in to attend. Norman reminded the Board, that Lion's Gate (formerly an Air Force Base) is a hotel, so there's no need for the attendees staying there to bring sleeping bags or bed linens.

Aside Note: Lions Gate was the site for the CMG 2005 Annual Meeting.

President's Report (Matthew Sunderland)

Marketing And Outreach Director

Rick Steadman, who was selected by the Board, to serve as the Marketing and Outreach Director, has officially resigned. Matthew reminded the Board that a new M & O Director could be nominated and elected, by the Voting Members, at the Annual Member's Meeting, in January.

The Elder's Circle

Matthew is concerned about the lack of newly-selected Elders. Elders are an important part of

our community, and selecting new members is an important part of the Circle's responsibilities. Matthew reminded the Board that of the seven Elders currently serving the Circle, three are recovering from illness, and really can't be present in person. Jim Ruboyianes is trying to keep the Elders in communication with one another, with a new group email address.

Joe Wagenhofer addressed this concern. The Elders met last September, and were working on the process of membership, and it is being considered. It's difficult when the Elders are scattered across the state, and many are unable to attend meetings, due to recovery or health issues. Joe added that the Circle may attempt to convene, via Skype or make a conference call in another way. There are many eligible CMG men who could be called into the Circle, but there isn't yet a process in place, to select and vote on possible new Elders. The Elders have considered presenting a new Elder at the next AMM, and then ceremonially install the member at a later Gathering, but this may not occur in 2016. Joe says that the Elders want to either conduct an Opening Ceremony, at Gatherings, or hold the Closing Ceremony, to help foster the visibility of the Elders, and to make the spiritual presence of Elders available at a Gathering.

Container at Camp Shalom

Matthew reported that there were many options, for both the Board and the Planners to consider. CMEN is interested in buying the container, and negotiations for this sale are underway. The asking price is between \$750 and \$2,000. CMEN already has a 42-foot container, next to the CMG container, which is 40 feet in length. The CMG Planners (Spring Gathering) bought the container several years ago, for around \$2500, plus shipping, and it has served the Spring Gatherings well over the years. Though no formal motion was made, Norm suggested that the container be sold for \$750. Joe asks if there is a writ or proof of ownership? Matthew says a bill of sale will be drafted. Matthew added that the container must either be sold to another group currently renting Camp Shalom, or it must be moved off the premises, as soon as possible.

Gathering Budgets

Matthew says he's in full agreement with Dave Clark, CMG Treasurer, who is absent from this meeting. Dave stated earlier that "flat fees," for registrations, will no longer be considered, in the budgets for future Gatherings.

Vice-President's Report (Jamie Simmons)

CMG Insurance Policy

One Insurance caveat: The CMG policy that covers our Local Events and Gatherings, will not cover Local Events which are co-sponsored with other groups. Jamie brought this up, since there are several co-sponsored Local Events statewide that may be without coverage, due to this insurance rule.

Norman asked Jamie how our fully-sponsored Events are covered. According to Jamie, we present a list, annually, of regularly-scheduled events to the insurance company. The list is flexible and can be revised.

The reason for this concern is that co-sponsored Events are generally managed by both groups—another organization may find a location and also take on logistic planning, while

the CMG makes an Enotify “blast” about the event, to attract potential attendees. The CMG would have to take on *all* responsibilities, in order for its insurance to cover the Event, Jamie added. Jamie says that an LEC can buy a “rider” for events that are co-sponsored by the CMG, and which are not covered by the current policy.

Interest Survey (Blaid Peisinger)

Blaidd says we'll need a marketing “ploy” to interest men to enter info, in order to produce a skills and interests list. The “S & I” survey would be optional to those who apply for Gatherings and Events, but newcomers to the CMG would be obligated to participate. A participant could click into the survey site, after his registration is completed. The Skills and Interests Inventory would then be generated, with data based on the survey results. Blaidd will gladly consider any suggestions to encourage men to take the survey.

Development Director's Report (Joe Wagenhofer)

The Annual CMG donation appeal letter will go out in early December. An updated letter, much like last year's message, will be sent out. A draft of the letter will be sent out to the Secretary, to be distributed to the Executive Board, which will make the final approval. A deadline for text changes and approval, will be considered at that time.

Harbin Hot Springs Update (Joe Wagenhofer)

Due to a wildfire, which flashed and burned through Harbin Hot Springs, in July, Joe has been considering an alternate location for the 2016 Spring Event. Joe negotiated moving the Event to Saratoga Springs, in North Lake County, during President's Day Weekend, but support for this by regular attendees and planners was not encouraging. The effort to hold the alternate Event at Saratoga Springs, was not met with the usual enthusiasm, according to Joe. Regretfully, no Spring Event is scheduled for 2016.

Harbin has a CMG deposit on hold for the annual Event that was to be held next March. Re-building Harbin will occur during the next two years. According to Joe, the Harbin organization is fully insured, and the burned structures will be replaced. Harbin Hot Springs will contact Joe, once there is a place for the CMG retreat. Joe was heartbroken over the loss of the site, since he's been the honored planner for this CMG Event, since 1998.

84th CMG–Fall, 2015 (Karim Christopher)

This Gathering is attended by fewer men (82), than was expected. The Statewide expenses may not be paid, but we're still afloat, nonetheless. Matthew says that the Gathering promises to offer workshops about healing and about attaining a sense of spiritual direction.

85th CMG–Spring, 2016 (Blaid Peisinger (substitute for Larry Geller))

Blaidd says he was with the PC, when they visited Pathfinder Ranch, which is the new site for Spring Gatherings. The camp contract has a minimum participant floor: 100. A deposit, of \$2000, will be paid as soon as the contract becomes available to the 85th Planning Committee. Camp costs are yet to be set. Extra charge activities, such as archery is being considered. A \$2 upgrade, per person, will be considered, for the meals. The PC is enthusiastic, and the Gathering may actually sell out at 200 men, according to Blaidd.

The Executive Board will give the PC approval for the 85th Gathering, upon the receipt of a

contract from the camp. There are some upgradable rooms, for couples and those wanting special arrangements. Intimacy tents, and a tent for massage may be considered. Up to 4 RV sites are available. Tent camping sites will also be available. The swimming pool will be heated, but not clothing-optional. The no-nudity policy is due to concerns about a public road that's visible from the pool. Blaidd says the Gathering will be held in a smaller, condensed space, but the activities the Planners are considering will make it exciting.

86th CMG–Summer, 2016 (Frank Rothacker, Acting Board Rep.)

There are four “active” Planners at this time, with 6 others in the circle. The 83rd Gathering (Summer, 2015) made \$12K profit, which is greater than the goal set for that Gathering. The 86th Planning Committee held one productive meeting, in November, 2015. Frank will serve as Board Rep., until an election for this position is held. Some really good men are on the PC, according to Frank.

CMG Web Presence (Frank Rothacker)

Frank says our web presence needs review and reconsideration. The 83rd PC (Summer, 2015) sent some requests to the webmaster. This request, containing 9 items, was presented to the webmaster, and it received little response, or poor response. There were concerns about navigation difficulties, registration forms, which were difficult to negotiate, and other problems were raised by the 83rd CMG Planners. To get on the mailing list, there are some “hoops” to jump through, according to Frank.

Matthew replied to this concern, and indicated that the website, though it does need revision, works well. One needs to provide an email address and a password, to be recognized as a member, and to register for Events and Gatherings. In addition, \$10K was spent to improve and secure the registration site. Matthew agreed with Frank, that the CMG Web presence really needs to be improved. This will be a matter for the Members to review and consider, at the coming AMM.

Next Scheduled CMG Board Meeting:

Annual Member's Meeting, Lions Gate Inn, Sacramento, CA., Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016. Time and meeting room to be determined.

Meeting adjourned: 8:38 AM.