

California Men's Gatherings  
Board of Directors Meeting  
First Quarter Teleconference  
April 13, 2011

**Summary of Actions:**

- No Bylaws were considered for modification or changes.
- No new Operating Procedures were considered, and no changes to existing Procedures were considered.
- One committee, to create guidelines for the acceptance, etc. of CMG death notices, was approved.
- Special Reports were heard:
  - 70<sup>th</sup> CMG
  - 2011 Board Retreat
  - Webmaster Search
  - I-Contact Report and Discussion
  - D & O Insurance Update

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**Attendees:**

**Board of Directors**

Mohabee Serrano, Secretary  
Mike Fahy, President  
James Badberg, Comm. Director--Time Keeper  
Jamie Simmons, LEC-DC  
Ben-Andy Hein, VP  
Steve Feichter, LEC-LA  
Ed Perez, Treasurer  
Rich Farschler, LEC-Sacramento  
Jim Ruboyiannes, Webmaster  
Robert Burnham, 70<sup>th</sup> CMG--Vibes  
Milo Shapiro, LEC-SD

**Absent Directors:** 71<sup>st</sup> CMG (Steve Anderson); 72<sup>nd</sup> CMG (Phillip Bowden); LEC-BA (Zakkary Zoah); Lee Usher, Tech Advisor; Ed Wahl, Arts Coordinator; Dave Clark, Development Director.

**Visitor:**

Frank Rothacker

***Meeting Called to Order: 7:06 PM***

Opening conducted with a breathing exercise.

***Old Business***

**Adopt the Minutes of the Feb. 3 CMG Board Meeting** (Mohabee)  
Second-Robert; passed by acclimation.

### **Treasurer's Report (Ed Perez)**

CMG Local Events Committees paid for I-contact through the end of the year. All is well, with no big expenses at this time. Financial aid is available for the 70<sup>th</sup> CMG. Ed queries the Board PC and LEC Reps., to ask each committee treasurer to send him contact info., so that Ed can instruct each one about accessing bank balances and other bank information, for the respective committee. Treasurers are asked to provide email and phone info, to [Eperezsd@aol.com](mailto:Eperezsd@aol.com) . Mike reminds Ed to email this request to the absent board reps.

### **Officer Progress Reports:**

--CMG Directory Report (Lee Usher)

Lee is not present at this meeting. This report is tabled to the next meeting.

--Copyright Report (Ed Wahl)

Ed is not present at this meeting. This report is tabled to the next meeting.

### **Board Retreat Report (Mohabee)**

Mohabee says that the location (Indio, CA), date (July 22-24), and a facilitator (George), for this retreat have been chosen. Ben-Andy says the location has plenty of space for cooking, sleeping, and the retreat itself, so the Board can be in charge of its meals and snacks, during the course of the weekend. The LEC-Desert Cities offers to hold the Saturday evening dinner out, in Palm Springs, at either a private home, or in a restaurant, but is unable to assist the retreat in any other way.

The theme of the Board Retreat will be “Togetherness,” which will inspire each person on the Board to meet and learn about himself and others, through group activities which are educational, interactive, and fun. Registration and information about the retreat will be sent out in June, after the 70<sup>th</sup> CMG. The Board is reminded that this retreat is for Board Members only, unlike previous retreats, where visitors and other non-Board attendees were present.

### **Webmaster Search Report (James and Jim)**

Jim will be leaving the Boardmaster in June. James says he posted an enotify, and we currently have only two responses, which were sent out to the Executive Committee. A second e-notify will be sent, to attract more candidates. Jim and James will discuss this promotion further. One applicant was forwarded to Jim, and Jim interviewed him. Candidate has no CMG experience, but has good webmaster skills. Jim says that daily maintenance (15 minutes max), is needed, to keep the website running (one of many specific duties of the Webmaster). Mike thinks a deadline needs to be given, for candidates to come forward. Jim says he'll mentor the new Webmaster before June 15. Mike suggests April 30, as the date for a second announcement, which is OK with Jim and James.

### **I-Contact Overage Charges (James)**

James says we ran into some overage charges for March, but none were accounted for in Jan or Feb. James suggests that we upgrade our service to a higher level, which may cost

an additional \$150, to be able to send out a greater number of messages, but doing so may extend the contract's expiration date. Our current contract will expire Jan. 31, 2012. Milo asks if discontinuing the "statewide" database will offset the number of messages. James says eliminating a database will help provide more space for messages, though a firm relationship between database and message usage can't be accurately determined. James will talk further with Ed, about the financial aspects. March overages totaled \$50-100. Ben-Andy thinks that paying for the upgrade would make sense. The contract will be extended to one year from the time the upgrade is paid for. Robert asks for clarification. The CMG will be reimbursed for the number of unused months on the old contract, then pay the extra difference for the upgraded service. James will send the Board and Ed the actual amount for the upgrade.

Other I-Contact Discussion Notes:

**Structural changes for I-Contact**, to manage content and the process of sending messages. James wants to know when the LEC message writers could be trained. The goal is to have more consistent and compatible management of databases and messages. James will send a bullet-point goal message to the Exec. Committee, for approval, which will go out to LECs.

**Dropped names:** Jamie Simmons (LEC-DC) told the Board that there are problems subscribing new, or resubscribing, names. James said that when the old statewide system is consolidated, he thinks that the problems of adding subscribers will be eliminated. There is a possibility that the subscribers clicked on the "unsubscribe" key, but somehow, they can't be resubscribed. I-contact will be sent a list of names and email addresses, to reinstate the subscribers who were taken off the list.

**Consolidation of databases:** Jim is concerned that the merging of lists has not been completed, and wonders when it will be completed. James thinks he can finish the process quickly. James says a new process will be needed first, so that an LEC can access its own data. One unified folder will be available, so that each Board Rep. can access his LEC's info, from the unified folder. Milo suggests that James create a manual, using "screen prints." James agreed to this, and will send out instructions in the near future.

**Other Problems:** Ben-Andy ("B-A"): if someone gets on the "don't contact" list--he can't sign up again. B-A says he was "bumped" off the LA list, and he re-subscribed himself, but was unable to get messages from other areas. Jim pointed out that the button for "unsubscribing" might be pushed inadvertently by someone other than the subscriber, which can also cancel the subscriptions of anyone receiving a "third party" forwarded email, which includes an I-Contact announcement. Milo suggests that the "unsubscribe" buttons be removed, if one forwards the messages to friends, or use the "send to a friend" button, instead of forwarding the e-notify. James will look into modifying the "unsubscribe" feature, and will do this if the system allows this kind of adjustment.

#### **D & O Insurance Update (Ben-Andy)**

When the current D & O insurance was passed last year, we agreed to grandfather it back as far as we could, to cover us for retroactive lawsuits. We paid a higher premium to the

current carrier, in order to get the retroactive coverage, plus some extra coverage. We're transferring from Bell-Manion to Paul Waters, to purchase a new policy. Ben-Andy says he'll send in a statement of purpose of the CMG, so that we can buy a revised policy, which is based on what we do as a business. This revised policy might increase our premium. Jim: are we still doing business with Manion Associates? B-A: No. We're keeping the same carrier of insurance, but the representative selling the insurance has changed. Manion will transfer the CMG's info to Paul Waters. Ben-Andy will keep in touch with Ed, regarding any changes to what the CMG pays for its insurance policies.

**Committee Progress (committees confirmed at the 2011 ABM):**

*ByLaws Committee*

Tabled to next meeting.

*Web-based Document Archive Storage and Management*

Tabled to next meeting.

**New Business**

***Matters Forwarded to the Board, from the 2011 ABM:***

**Couples Awareness (Mike)**

At the ABM, this was called an attempt to make a Gathering "couples friendly." Jamie Simmons: add "relationship status" to the mission statement. Ben-Andy: the CMG really isn't "couples unfriendly." How do we improve what we already have? We could empower the individuals to create and protect their personal boundaries. Jim: more than one person at the ABM had the same concerns as the author. Steve: isn't concerned about this matter. Ed: agrees with Ben-Andy, but we could have a couple's intimacy cabin. Robert: will recommend to the 70<sup>th</sup> CMG Planners that the intimacy cabin accommodate couples. Ben-Andy: not an issue. Mike: This issue is determined to be completed. No further action by the Board will be taken.

**Director of Community Involvement (Mike)**

*Action: Tabled to the next meeting.*

DOCI is s position on the Board, which is different than Director of Outreach. The D of O raises conscience about what the CMG does, promotion wise. It does not involve community service, however, such as AIDS walks. Ben-Andy: will making the Board "bigger," be a good idea? The AIDS walks were also intended for outreach. Promotion is an inherent part of organizing community events. Robert is against adding another position on the Board. Milo says that the Outreach Director could have a community involvement committee, which wouldn't need to have board representation. Jim thinks that we need a definition of each position, so that we know what we're accurately talking about, to stem duplicity of the positions. Mike: shall we add to the function of the Director of Outreach, duties including service projects, for local events committees. Mohabee: Michael Bell, the former Outreach Director, took on community projects, such as YCMG, which served both functions, outreach and community involvement. Jim: the Outreach Director also coordinated the booths and parade floats, with the LECs, and also arranged for a budget for these activities. Mike: recommends that the Outreach Director

position be modified, a plan that is generally agreed with. This matter will be tabled to the next meeting.

**Executive Director (Jim)**

Jim thinks that a non-profit typically grows from grass-roots and all-volunteer, to a level, where it hires and pays people to do work, to coordinate the expanded services. A director could be a paid position. We can make it a part-time position, and have a trial period of one year. This would require much thought and discussion, but it might help the CMG grow. Duties would include webmaster tasks, and organizing the activities and events of the organization, and fund-raising. If we want to hold the level of activities that we have, and also want to grow, we can't depend entirely on volunteer energy. Mike: the question is: what is the vision for the CMG? Would this vision include a paid person to coordinate the work? An intention needs to develop over the coming year. Jim wants to keep the idea visible, as an idea. We're talking about all sorts of possibilities. Mike: we'll continue with the goals and ideas of the organization.

**Medical Marijuana Policy (Ben-Andy)**

Ben-Andy: the man who brought this up was concerned, as a Planner, that the matter wasn't adequately addressed. Ben-Andy met with the author, and read off the waiver statement, which was acceptable to the author. No further action is needed at this time.

***Matters tabled from the last Board Meeting:***

**--CMG LEC Planners Manual (Mohabee)**

Mohabee thinks getting a committee together, to continue the work on the LEC Manual, is the best transition from one man doing this (Mohabee has been revising the LEC Manual over the years). He'll bring the manual to the LEC Congress, to be held at the 70<sup>th</sup> CMG, in Malibu, and suggest that a manual revision committee be formed, made up of LEC planners from around the state.

Jim thanks Mohabee, suggests that Trevor be consulted, to help create a wiki for LEC planners to consult and also add to an "online manual."

***Other New Business:***

**Approval of CMG 72 Budget (Ed)**

Ed talked to Jordan Lieberman about the 72<sup>nd</sup> CMG budget, and both agreed that the budget will be tabled to next meeting (Phillip Bowden, 72<sup>nd</sup> CMG Board Rep. was absent from this meeting).

**Memorial Webpage Committee (Mohabee)**

*Vote: unanimously approved.*

Consensus of the Board was raised, to form a committee that will determine the guidelines for acquiring, managing, and reporting the names of CMG men who are deceased. Using the guidelines, a volunteer will be selected, to keep the records of deaths, and to verify death notices.

Discussion: B-A: suggests that this become a volunteer position, and not a committee, for a person who is motivated to keep records. The committee would form the guidelines. He

thinks it needs to be an ongoing project, for one person. Jim: we need to verify the names, to screen out possible identity of someone with the first and last name of a known living person.

Two suggestions were made, for consideration by the Memorial Webpage Committee:

-Future death notices will be supported by a written obituary, or another reliable written form.

-The effort of the database person will be to focus on men who are remembered by known CMG survivors, or past CMG survivors who no longer attend Gatherings or Events.

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

The Gathering is well on track. Puppets will play a major role, for this Gathering. “Dare to be Different,” is the theme of the Gathering. Planning Meetings are now held every two weeks. An ASL interpreter will be onsite, and a “comp” will be given to the interpreter. The camp repair liaison person is working with the camp manager, to repair the restrooms and other facilities, in line with the 67<sup>th</sup> CMG Plenary decision.

Jim: Registration will not open tomorrow--or until website materials have been received. Ben-Andy says the committee needs to know specifically what is needed. Mike suggests and it is agreed that this matter will be resolved right after the meeting, offline. Mike acknowledges and thanks Ben-Andy, who is handling the registrations.

### **Dates and Locations of forthcoming 2011 Board Meetings**

Future CMG Board meetings will be held on the Friday afternoons prior to the opening of a Gathering, at the Gathering site. The actual meeting location and time of the meeting will be determined by a collaboration of the Planning Committee of each Gathering and the Exec. Committee, and will be announced by the Secretary, one week prior to the Gathering.

#### **2011 Board Meeting Dates:**

May 27, 2011, Camp Shalom, 2:00 PM. Location TBA.

Sept. 2, 2011, Camp Newman.

Nov. 25, 2011, Pathfinder Ranch.

Meeting time and room location will be announced prior to each meeting.

**Meeting adjourned: 9:18 PM**